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WILDERNESS REVIEW

INTENSIVE INVENTORY

Proposed Decision on the Intensive Wilderness Inventory of Selected Areas

OREGON

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INTRODUCTION

This report presents the proposed decision on the intensive wilderness inventory of 30 selected units of BLM-administered public land in southeastern Oregon. Twenty-two entire inventory units and portions of eight other units containing approximately 864,000 acres are proposed to be eliminated from further wilderness review. Portions of eight units containing approximately 347,000 acres are proposed to be designated wilderness study areas.

The second part of this report contains narrative descriptions of each of the 30 inventory units. A map of southeastern Oregon indicating the decisions on the 30 selected inventory units is enclosed. In addition to the map accompanying this report, more detailed maps are available on request from either the Oregon State Office or the district office which administers the unit in question. Office addresses and telephone numbers are listed in Appendix B. Be sure to indicate unit numbers so we can send you the correct maps.

Public comments on this proposed decision will be accepted during a period extending through January 4, 1980. To be used in the review of this decision, comments must address the wilderness characteristics of the inventory units. Those characteristics are naturalness--the noticeability of human modifications of the landscape--and opportunities for experiencing solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreational activities. Comments addressing other resource uses--such as livestock grazing or mining--cannot be used during the inventory but will be retained for consideration in a later phase of the wilderness review if the area is designated a wilderness study area. For a description of the entire wilderness review process, please refer to Appendix A.

In addition to this report and the larger scale maps, the complete inventory forms for each of the 30 units are available for public inspection at the Oregon State Office and the appropriate district offices.

We have enclosed public comment forms with this report for your use in writing comments. If you choose, your comments may also be provided in letters. Comment forms and letters should be sent to the district office which administers the unit in question. The first digit in the unit number indicates which office administers the unit: 1 - Lakeview, 2 - Burns, 3 - Vale, 5 - Prineville. Office addresses are listed in Appendix B. Comments also may be presented orally at one of the public meetings. Meetings to present this decision and to receive comments will be held at the following times and places:

Lakeview - November 6, 1979, 7:00 pm, Lakeview District Office,
1000 Ninth Street South

Fields - November 7, 1979, 7:00 pm, Fields School

Prineville - November 7, 1979, two sessions at 2:00 pm and 7:00 pm,
Prineville District Office,
185 East Fourth Street

Burns - November 8, 1979, 7:00 pm, Burns District Office,
74 South Alvord Street

Eugene - November 27, 1979, two sessions at 3:00 pm and 7:00 pm,
Lane County Extension Hall,
950 West 13th Street

Portland - November 29, 1979, two sessions at 1:30 pm and 7:30 pm,
Oregon State Office,
729 NE. Oregon Street

Following completion of the public comment period, all comments will be evaluated and the proposed decision will be reviewed. The final decision will formally identify areas of public land that qualify as wilderness study areas and which will continue to be subject to the management restrictions imposed by Section 603 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act.

The intensive inventory of BLM lands in Oregon and Washington is being carried out in two stages. The first stage, which is the subject of this report, considers only 30 inventory units in southeastern Oregon. These 30 units were selected for inventory on an accelerated schedule for the reasons explained below.

Units 2-1, 2-2, 2-11, 2-12, 2-13, 2-14, 2-15, 2-16, 2-17, 2-21, 2-23, 2-24, and 2-26 are located in the Drewsey Resource Area of the Burns District. Portions of the Drewsey area will be developed next year to improve livestock grazing conditions, if those developments do not conflict with wilderness values. The accelerated inventory of these units will enable BLM to determine which range improvements can be carried out.

Unit 5-14 in the Prineville District consists of two parcels adjacent to a RARE II area in the Crooked River National Grassland. The President designated the area for further planning. The intensive inventory of the BLM land was accelerated so the proposed decision would be available for public review before the Forest Service reaches a final decision on whether the RARE II area will be recommended for designation as a wilderness. That decision will be made as a part of the land management plan for the national grasslands. The Forest Service released a Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the Crooked River National Grassland Land Management Plan on August 14, 1979. The public comment period on the draft EIS is scheduled to end on October 15, 1979.

The intensive inventories of the other 16 units in the Lakeview, Burns, Vale and Prineville Districts were accelerated because the units contain parcels of land identified by private parties or the Oregon Division of State

Lands for possible land exchanges. BLM will not proceed with exchange negotiations if the selected lands are in wilderness study areas.

The second stage of the intensive inventory, which will evaluate all remaining inventory units in Oregon and Washington, will be reported on in the spring of 1980. Maps covering the entire states of Oregon and Washington and showing all of the intensive inventory units were published in August 1979 with the report on the final decision on the initial inventory. Copies of that report and its maps are still available, while supplies last, from the Public Affairs Room in the Oregon State Office in Portland.

EXPLANATION OF PROPOSED DECISIONS

This section of the report contains explanations of the proposed decisions for each of the 30 inventory units. In some instances the units are subdivided by roads. There are separate explanations for subunits containing more than 5,000 acres.

Lakeview District

Unit Number: 1-76

Unit Name: Steamboat Point

Description

Size: This unit contains 20,040 acres of public land. There is one state inholding of 640 acres. Correction of the alignment of road 6155G on the inventory map resulted in deleting 480 acres from the original unit.

Location: The unit is located approximately 30 miles north of Plush, Oregon.

Boundaries: The primary boundaries of this unit are BLM maintained roads 6155G, 6255E, and 6255F. At four points the boundary is defined by private or state lands. These lands delineate approximately four miles of boundary.

Physical Characteristics: The topography of this unit consists of uplifts and valleys commonly associated with the basin and range province. Juniper Ridge, located in the western and northern portion of the unit is a moderate ridge with several side canyons of interest, containing fairly dense juniper stands and interesting erosion features. Vegetation in the unit is big sagebrush with stands of juniper on Juniper Ridge.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: This unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: This unit contains approximately 5 1/2 miles of ways, one and one-half miles of fenceline, a wildlife guzzler, and one reservoir removed from the boundary. There are several reservoirs on the boundary road surrounding the unit but they do not present any significant impact within the unit. A major intrusion is located in Sec. 22, 26, 27, and 35; T. 31 S., R. 26 E. in the form of a drilled seeding known as the Kit Canyon seeding. This 320 acre seeding is substantially noticeable.

Solitude: This unit does not present an outstanding opportunity for solitude. The topography of this unit and vegetation do offer some opportunity to avoid the sights and presence of others in the unit. Due to the extremely narrow aspect of the northern portion of the unit the opportunity is not outstanding. The southern portion is sage cover in a broad valley, which does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Recreation: The unit offers opportunities for hiking and backpacking, wildlife observation, bird watching and potentially hunting, but they are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: This unit has a high potential for archeological values.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The area is impacted by a seeding, ways and a wildlife development. The majority of the land area does appear generally free of the works of man. It does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or unconfined types of recreation, due to configuration, overall topography, vegetative cover and size.

Unit Number: 1-77

Unit Name: Juniper Canyon

Description

Size: 9,920 acres of public land; 1,560 acres of private and state holdings located in four parcels.

Location: 30 miles north of Plush, Oregon.

Boundaries: The boundaries are BLM roads in the north, south, and east. The west boundary is a BLM road and state and private holdings.

Physical Characteristics: Vegetative cover is representative of the big sage community. Topography is generally typical of the basin and range province with north to south trending fault block uplifts and depressions forming narrow valleys in the center and western portion of the unit. A northeast running uplift leaves a high ridge on the northwest and a shallow valley on the northeast of the unit below Rock Camp Lake. The southern end of the unit opens onto the flats of an ancient lakebed which forms the Warner Valley.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria for wilderness study area.

Naturalness: The central and southeastern portion of the unit, approximately 60% of the unit, is in a natural condition. The remaining portion of the unit does not meet the criteria for naturalness. There are three ways and a lake bed pit in the northeast portion of the unit, which are substantially noticeable. In the western portion of the unit, there are two ways and a cabin. The cabin and the way parallel to the boundary road are very noticeable. The second way is not substantially noticeable.

Solitude: This unit does not offer an outstanding opportunity for a visitor to avoid the sights, sounds, and evidence of others in the unit due to access potential, low vegetative cover, and shape (width) of the entire unit. The topographic exposure is such that people cannot readily isolate themselves from others within the unit.

Recreation: The unit offers opportunities for hiking, backpacking, hunting, photography, and birdwatching. However, these opportunities are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: This unit is known to have anthropological values, although no intensive cultural resources inventory has as yet been accomplished.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Approximately 40% of the unit is not in a substantially natural condition, being impacted by the works of man. The unit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

Unit Number: 1-78

Unit Name: Orejana Rim

Description

Size: 28,280 acres of public land. The unit contains 1,280 acres of state inholdings.

Location: The unit is 30 miles northeast of Plush.

Boundaries: The north and west boundaries are BLM road 7175. The east and south boundaries are BLM road 7165.

Physical Characteristics: The north end of the unit is a broad draw known as "the basin". The southwest quarter of the unit is a sage and greasewood flat below the Orejana Rim. The rim rises approximately 500 feet above the flat. The rim is a north to south trending fault scarp. The remaining portion of the unit is a flat mesa above the Orejana Rim which is dissected by Orejana Canyon. The canyon runs north to south. It reaches a maximum depth of approximately 500 feet and a width of one-quarter mile. Vegetation in the unit is primarily big sagebrush and related species.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: This unit meets minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: A way paralleling the Orejana Rim is located high on the colluvial slope below the rim and is substantially noticeable from a 5,400-acre block of sage flats to the west of the rim. The rest of the unit appears generally natural. There are three minor ways in the north of the unit and one half-mile long way into Shingle Reservoir on the southeast. The unit has four reservoirs, Hartman, Terry, Headwater, and Shingle which range from .9 to 3.3 acre feet in size. These reservoirs remain substantially unnoticeable within the unit due to topography and vegetation at their locations. The unit has one fenceline approximately three miles long. Denis Cabin and Cabin Waterhole are located immediately adjacent to the north boundary road and do not essentially impact the unit.

Solitude: This unit offers an outstanding opportunity for solitude. The topographic isolation offered by the Orejana Rim and the canyon to the east provide opportunity for one to be isolated from the presence of others in the unit. The basin to the north and rolling hills to the west of the basin are of a size to offer solitude.

Recreation: The area offers opportunity for wildlife observation, backpacking, hunting as well as other forms of unconfined recreation.

Supplemental Values: The area is of interest geologically, with the rugged north trending fault scarps and exposures of banded glassy lava flows and tuffacious beds containing inclusions of exceptionally clear obsidian. The area has archeological interest though sites are not presently defined.

Proposed Decision: Designate a 22,800 acre wilderness study area. Exclude 5,400 acres in the southwest corner because the works of man are substantially noticeable.

Rationale: The proposed wilderness study area is generally free of the imprints of man's works and appears to be primarily affected by the forces of nature. It offers outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation. The imprints of man's work are substantially noticeable in the area proposed for deletion.

Unit Number: 1-105

Unit Name: Skokum Lake

Description

Size: 30,000 acres of public land, 920 acres of private inholdings.

Location: The unit is located fifteen miles northwest of Plush.

Boundaries: The boundaries on the north, south, and west are well-bladed BLM roads. The east boundary is Hogback Road, a county-maintained road.

Physical Characteristics: The entire unit is flat table land ending on the northeast at Commodore Ridge. At the ridge there is a drop of 80 to 200 feet with a narrow strip of land between the ridge and the Hogback Road. There is a gradual rise in elevation throughout the unit from Commodore Ridge to the southern boundary. Rabbit Creek crosses the unit from south to north and approximately one-fourth mile from the northern boundary it merges with Foley Creek. This combined drainage at the northern boundary is approximately one-fourth mile wide. Mary Ann Draw is a minor draw which crosses the southeast corner of the unit.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: This unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: This unit does not meet the naturalness criteria as it is not substantially free of the works of man. The unit has approximately 23 miles of ways, eight water developments which are substantially noticeable and six miles of fenceline. There are also 605 acres of drilled seedings in the unit which do not appear natural.

Solitude: This unit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude. The low sagebrush cover on the unit and lack of significant topographic relief throughout the unit precludes any opportunity for one to avoid the presence of others in the unit.

Recreation: This unit offers hunting opportunities. However, primitive recreation potential for backpacking or other non-motorized recreation activities is limited.

Supplemental Values: No supplemental values of note are recognized within this unit.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The unit has been significantly impacted by the works of man and lacks opportunity for outstanding solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

Unit Number: 1-111

Unit Name: East Coyote Hills

Description

Size: This unit contains 17,200 acres of public land, 400 acres of private inholdings and 480 acres of state land.

Location: Five miles northwest of Plush.

Boundaries: The eastern boundary is Hogback road; the north and south boundaries are BLM roads, and the west boundary is private land and BLM road.

Physical Characteristics: This unit consists of a group of small hills with rolling contours on the north and east with moderately steep slopes in the central portion of the hills. Vegetative cover on the unit is sagebrush with isolated stands of junipers in the draws. There are several springs in the unit with riparian vegetation in restricted areas around these springs.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The unit has many scattered tunnels and shafts from past mining activity. There is a heavy concentration of tunnels and shafts with associated ways in the Minus Draw area and on the higher slopes which are substantially noticeable. There are numerous faint ways on the eastern flanks of the hills. There are water developments and spring enclosures in the Mulkey Wells Draw area which have significant cumulative impacts on the unit. There are approximately 11 miles of ways in the northern part of the unit which are substantially noticeable and result in a non-natural condition in this portion of the unit. There is a 460-acre drilled seeding in the northeast corner of the unit which is substantially noticeable. There is a narrow flat along the eastern boundary road which appears in a generally natural condition. However, the majority of the unit appears in an unnatural condition.

Solitude: Although this unit is situated in a hilly area, the slopes and exposure throughout is such that one would not be able to avoid the sights, sounds, and activities of others within the unit.

Recreation: Primitive recreation opportunities in the unit would be extremely limited. The numerous mining claims on the unit would severely restrict rock hound activity which otherwise would represent the most probable form of recreation. There is some opportunity for hunting in the unit but it is not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: None unknown.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: The majority of the unit has been impacted by the works of man and does not meet the naturalness criteria. The unit does not offer outstanding opportunity for solitude or unconfined primitive recreation.

Burns District

Unit Number: 2-1

Unit Name: Coleman Creek

Revision of Unit Boundaries: Inventory Unit 2-1 contains approximately 65,900 acres of BLM land. Public comment and intensive inventory have identified roads that divide the unit into 20 subunits. Sixteen of the subunits contain less than 5,000 acres ranging in size from 60 to 4,870 acres. None of the sixteen subunits meet any of the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas. They are not described below.

Subunit Number: 2-1C

Description

Size: 9,850 acres of BLM land; 480 acres of private inholdings.

Location: Six miles northeast of Crane, in Harney County.

Boundaries: Roads form the north, east and west boundaries; private property bounds the south.

Physical Characteristics: The topography consists of several parallel ridges running from north to south. Crane Creek is the major drainage, flowing south between the two main ridgelines. The extreme northern part consists of rolling foothills. Juniper is found along the rocky portions of the ridges and slopes and big sage and grass are common throughout the entire subunit. Some small patches of willow and aspen are located in the drainages.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas.

Naturalness: Seven ways totaling nine miles, four and one-half miles of fenceline, five wildlife and livestock reservoirs and several campsites used primarily by hunters are located within the subunit. The developments are dispersed throughout the area and are not substantially noticeable.

Solitude: The gentle slopes, open valleys and scattered stands of juniper prevent visitors from achieving an outstanding feeling of solitude. In addition, there is a narrow subunit protruding into the northern area and a two mile long extension of private land into the southern portion which creates a configuration that does not enhance the opportunity for one to find solitude. The combination of the configuration and lack of vegetative and topographic screening prevent an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

Recreation: The subunit offers opportunities for recreational activities which include hiking, fishing, rockhounding and hunting but these opportunities are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: The subunit provides crucial winter range for mule deer.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The subunit appears to be generally natural with the imprints of man substantially unnoticeable. However, outstanding opportunities for solitude and a primitive and unconfined type of recreation are lacking.

Subunit Number: 2-1K

Description

Size: 8,060 acres of BLM land; 320 acres of private land.

Location: Six miles northeast of Crane, in Harney County.

Boundaries: Roads bound the entire subunit except on the southwest and northeast where private property forms the boundary.

Physical Characteristics: The northern part of the subunit consist of Coleman Mountain which is the southern-most ridge of the Stinkingwater Mountains. Coleman Creek is the major drainage and flows southeast between two small plateaus in the center of the subunit. The southern and eastern portions of the area are comprised of the southern slopes of a ridgeline located east of subunit K. Juniper are located in the north and are generally scattered. Sagebrush and grass are common in the entire subunit.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas.

Naturalness: There are six livestock and wildlife reservoirs, one spring development, six miles of fenceline and two ways totaling two miles. These developments are dispersed throughout the subunit and are not substantially noticeable.

Solitude: The topography is generally diverse, however, the subunit is only two miles wide or less. The scattered juniper in the northern end would provide an opportunity for visitors to avoid one another but it is not considered to be outstanding. The southern end of the subunit lacks vegetative screening and there is no opportunity for seclusion. A combination of narrow width, lack of vegetative screening and open expanses on the slopes would prevent visitors from finding an outstanding feeling of solitude.

Recreation: The subunit offers opportunities for recreational activities including hiking, fishing and hunting; however, the opportunities are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: Coleman Creek contains crucial stream habitat for redband trout. Also, beaver are present and have built a dam on Coleman Creek. The area serves as crucial winter range for mule deer.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The imprints of man are substantially unnoticeable; however, the subunit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

Subunit Number: 2-1M

Description

Size: 11,800 acres of BLM land; 520 acres of private land.

Location: Six miles northeast of Crane in Harney County.

Boundaries: Roads bound the subunit on the west, north and east. private land forms the southern boundary.

Physical Characteristics: The topography consists of gently rolling hills with two intermittent streams flowing northeast to Warm Springs Reservoir. Juniper occurs in rocky areas with a few scattered throughout the remainder of the subunit. Big sage and grass grow throughout the area.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas.

Naturalness: Buck Mountain Seeding (1,900 acres) is located in the southern half and Warm Springs Seeding (1,300 acres) lies in the northeastern corner. Neither of them are obvious intrusions and appear substantially unnoticeable. There are six livestock and wildlife reservoirs, 11 miles of fenceline, and three ways totaling one and a half miles. The imprints of man are scattered throughout the area and are not substantially noticeable.

Solitude: The subunit consists of gently rolling hills that are only sparsely covered with juniper or any other type of vegetation that would enable visitors to screen themselves from others. In addition, the slopes and plateaus are open expanses of land that would prevent visitors from finding a secluded area. The lack of vegetative screening and the open terrain would prevent an opportunity for achieving outstanding solitude.

Recreation: There are opportunities for hiking, hunting and horseback riding but they are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: The northern end of the subunit is inhabited by wild horses and the subunit provides crucial winter range for mule deer and antelope.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The subunit appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature with man's imprints being substantially unnoticeable. However, the opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation are not outstanding.

Subunit Number: 2-1N

Description

Size: 17,700 acres of BLM land; 360 acres of private land.

Location: Fourteen miles northeast of Crane, Oregon in Harney County.

Boundaries: State, private and BLM land border the subunit on the south and a combination of roads and private land bound the remaining portions.

Physical Characteristics: The topography of the subunit consists of gently rolling hills in the north, east and west. Buck Mountain rises in steep slopes to an elevation of 5,000 feet in the southern end of the subunit. Big sage, low sage and crested wheatgrass are the dominant vegetation types. Juniper are scattered and are not found in thick stands.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas.

Naturalness: Part of the Buck Mountain Seeding covers 1,900 acres in the southern and western area of the subunit but it is not an obvious intrusion due to the lack of definite boundaries and rows. In addition, there are ten stock and wildlife reservoirs, one spring development, twelve and one half miles of fence and two and a half miles of ways. The developments are not substantially noticeable because they are dispersed throughout the subunit.

Solitude: The opportunity for a visitor to achieve outstanding solitude is limited due to the open expanses of land on the gentle slopes, particularly in the northern and central portions. The area on and around Buck Mountain is open and would limit the opportunity for solitude. In addition, the subunit is narrow, with the majority of the area being only two miles wide and given the lack of topography and vegetationscreening, an outstanding feeling of solitude would not be achieved by a visitor.

Recreation: Opportunities for several types of recreational activities exist, including hunting, horseback riding and hiking, but they are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: The subunit serves as crucial winter habitat for mule deer and antelope.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The subunit generally appears to be natural with the developments being substantially unnoticeable. The subunit does not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

Unit Number: 2-2

Unit Name: Warm Springs - Black Butte

Revision of Unit Boundaries: Inventory Unit 2-2 contains 48,950 acres of public land. One hundred sixty acres of private inholdings occur in three parcels. Unit 2-2 is divided by roads and non-public lands into six subunits. Four of the subunits contain less than 5,000 acres, ranging in size from 90 to 1,750 acres. None of the four subunits meet any of the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas. They are not described below.

Subunit Number: 2-2E

Description

Size: 11,920 acres.

Location: Nine miles southeast of Drewsey in Harney County.

Boundaries: Roads on the north, west, and southwest, non-public land on the east and southeast.

Physical Characteristics: The topography consists of rolling hills and high plateaus. Upton Mountain rises to 4,860 feet in the center of the subunit. The vegetation is primarily big sagebrush and grasses with some scattered juniper.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas.

Naturalness: One reservoir, one spring, three fencelines totaling three miles, one way. The developments are dispersed through the subunit and are not substantially noticeable.

Solitude: The subunit provides some opportunity for solitude but it is not outstanding due to the lack of vegetative screening.

Recreation: The subunit offers opportunities for hunting (deer, antelope, upland game), rockhounding, hiking, backpacking, and trapping but none of the opportunities are outstanding.

Supplemental Values: The western portion of this subunit provides yearlong antelope habitat.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The subunit generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable. However, it does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

Subunit Number: 2-2F

Description

Size: 25,980 acres. One hundred sixty acres of private inholdings in three parcels lie within the subunit boundary.

Location: Six miles southeast of Drewsey in Harney County.

Boundaries: Roads in the northwest, west, south, and east. Public land previously inventoried during the Pacific Power & Light accelerated inventory forms the northeast and part of the eastern boundary. Two acres of non-public land penetrate from the northwest and south into the center of the subunit to within a half mile of each other.

Physical Characteristics: The topography consists of rolling hills, high plateaus, and broad, flat expanses. Part of Upton Mountain is located in the southwest. The elevation ranges from 3,500 to over 4,800 feet. The Middle Fork of the Malheur River flows through the center of the area but only a small portion is found in the subunit itself as most of it flows through non-public land. The vegetation is primarily big and low sagebrush, scattered juniper, and an area of native grasses in the north.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas.

Naturalness: Five reservoirs, four to five miles of fenceline, and one way in the western portion. The eastern portion contains nine reservoirs, over eight miles of fence, and three ways. The imprint of man's work is substantially unnoticeable because the developments are scattered, the subunit is large, and it has somewhat varied relief.

Solitude: Where the topography consists of gently rolling hill the land provides an adequate opportunity for solitude but it is not outstanding due to the lack of vegetative screening and the open expanses between hills. Users do not have an outstanding opportunity to screen themselves from others or to find a secluded spot.

Recreation: The subunit provides opportunities for hunting (deer, antelope, upland game), rockhounding, hiking, backpacking, fishing and trapping. However, this subunit does not provide an outstanding opportunity for any of these activities.

Supplemental Values: Crucial deer winter range occurs in the north and yearlong antelope range is found in the west. A small number of wild horses live on the eastern side of this subunit.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The unit appears to be generally natural with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable. However, it does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

Unit Number: 2-11

Unit Name: Dietrich Cabin

Revisions of Unit Boundaries: Inventory Unit 2-11 contains 11,300 acres of BLM land. Roads divide the unit into five subunits. All five subunits contain less than 5,000 acres ranging in size from 85 to 4,580 acres. Three of the subunits do not meet the minimum size criterion for wilderness study areas. Two of the subunits are contiguous to a Forest Service RARE II area designated for further planning, and thus meet a size criterion.

Subunit Number: 2-11C

Description

Size: 3,160 acres.

Location: 11 miles west of Drewsey in Harney County.

Boundaries: The Forest Service Pine Creek RARE II Area bounds one and a quarter sections on the west side of the subunit; private land bounds the remaining western portion and eastern side; roads bound the north and south sides.

Physical Characteristics: The southern portion is comprised of three small buttes from which two streams flow in an easterly direction. The central part consists of gentle slopes and the northern area contains the steep-sided canyon of Muddy Creek flows. Ponderosa pine, juniper and grass grow in the northern half of the subunit. Big and low sage are the predominant vegetation types in the southern half.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets a size criterion for wilderness study areas because it is adjacent to a Forest Service RARE II area designated for further planning.

Naturalness: A washed-out reservoir, one way, and 8 miles of fence are located within the subunit; however, because they are dispersed over the entire area they are not substantially noticeable.

Solitude: Three quarters of the subunit is one mile wide or less, and the remaining area is one and a half to two miles wide. The vegetation and topography would provide some screening. However, it would not provide the opportunity for one to achieve outstanding solitude. Due to the narrow width and limited topographic and vegetative screening, the subunit does not offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

Recreation: The subunit offers opportunities for hiking, back-packing, hunting and horseback riding. However, the opportunities are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: The subunit serves as a migratory route for mule deer as they move between summer range in the Malheur National Forest and winter ranges along the west and south sides of Stinkingwater Mountain.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The subunit contains developments that are not substantially noticeable but the area lacks opportunities for outstanding solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation. The addition of the subunit to the Pine Creek Study Area would not enhance its potential wilderness character.

Subunit Number: 2-11D

Description

Size: 4,580 acres.

Location: 11 miles west of Drewsey in Harney County.

Boundaries: The Pine Creek RARE II Study Area bounds the subunit on the west; private land forms the boundary on the south and east and a road bounds the subunit on the north.

Physical Characteristics: The western half of the subunit consist of the east slopes of Elephant Butte from which two intermittent streams flow. The remainder of the area consists of a flat-topped butte with a stream that flows into Pine Creek, south of the subunit. Juniper is found along the drainages as well as in the rocky areas of the butte. Low sage and grass are common throughout the remainder of the subunit. The entire area is extremely rocky.

Wilderness Criteria:

Size: The subunit meets a size criterion for wilderness study areas because it is adjacent to a Forest Service RARE II area designated for further planning.

Naturalness: There are one and a half miles of fenceline on the eastern boundary and two livestock and wildlife reservoirs within the subunit. The developments are scattered throughout the area and are not substantially noticeable.

Solitude: The subunit is four miles wide and less than two miles long. The western part of the subunit provides little opportunity for solitude because of the low vegetation, gentle slope of the land and lack of vegetative screening. The drainage in the central and eastern portion provides a better opportunity for solitude than the western area but it is not outstanding. The butte is covered with low sage and grass and doesn't offer an outstanding opportunity for visitors to avoid the sights and sounds of others. Because of the limited vegetative and topographic screening and narrow size, the subunit does not offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

Recreation: Opportunities for hiking, backpacking, hunting, and horseback riding are provided but they are not considered to be outstanding because of the lack of challenge and diversity.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The subunit appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature with the imprints of man substantially unnoticeable. However, the area does not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreational activities. The addition of the subunit to the Pine Creek Study Area would not enhance its potential wilderness character.

Unit Number: 2-12

Unit Name: House Butte

Revision of Unit Boundaries: Inventory Unit 2-12 contains 29,700 acres of public land, and includes inholdings of 560 acres of state land and 2,680 acres of private land. Unit 2-12 is divided by roads into 12 subunits. Nine

of the subunits contain less than 5,000 acres, ranging in size from 250 to 4,220 acres. None of the nine subunits meet any of the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas. They are not described below.

Subunit Number: 2-12H

Description

Size: 7,300 acres.

Location: Seven miles west of Drewsey in Harney County.

Boundaries: Roads and private land on all sides.

Physical Characteristics: The topography consists of mountains formed by steep uplift and faulted volcanics which form rock outcroppings. The vegetation includes stiff sage, juniper and big sagebrush.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas.

Naturalness: Eight and one half miles of fenceline, three springs one reservoir, one mile of way. The developments are substantially unnoticeble.

Solitude: The subunit provides some opportunity for solitude but it is not outstanding due to the lack of good vegetative screening.

Recreation: The subunit offers opportunities for rock scrambling, hiking, hunting (antelope, deer, and upland game), horseback riding, rock-hounding, and trapping, but none of the opportunities are outstanding.

Supplemental Values: Teepee rings, suspected sage grouse strutting grounds, summer antelope range.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The subunit generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable. However, it does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

Subunit Number: 2-12I

Description

Size: 8,800 acres.

Location: 8 miles west of Drewsey in Harney County.

Boundaries: Private land on the north and west, a road and private land on the south, and a road and public land on the east.

Physical Characteristics: The topography is mountainous with well-defined drainages. The vegetation is primarily big sagebrush and juniper with an area of native grasses in the east.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas.

Naturalness: Three springs, one reservoir, 4 and 1/2 miles of fence, and a way. The developments are substantially unnoticeable.

Solitude: The subunit provides some opportunity for solitude but it is not outstanding due to the lack of good vegetative screening.

Recreation: The subunit offers opportunities for hiking, hunting, (deer upland game), horseback riding, rockhounding, and trapping but none of the opportunities are outstanding.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The subunit generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable. However, it does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitve and unconfined type of recreation.

Subunit Number: 2-12J

Description

Size: 5,080 acres.

Location: Two miles southwest of Drewsey in Harney County.

Boundaries: Private land on the north and east, Highway 20 on the southeast, a road and private land on the west.

Physical Characteristics: The topography consists of mountains and lowlands. The vegetation is primarily big sagebrush, native grasses, and juniper.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas.

Naturalness: Two miles of fenceline, three springs, one and one-half miles of ways. The developments are substantially unnoticeable.

Solitude: The subunit provides some opportunity for solitude but it is not outstanding due to the lack of good vegetative screening and the narrow configuration of the subunit.

Recreation: The subunit offers opportunities for hiking, hunting (deer and upland game), trapping, and rockhounding but none of the opportunties are outstanding.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The subunit generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable. However, it does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

Unit Number: 2-13

Unit Name: Bartlett Mountain

Description

Size: 8,850 acres.

Location: The unit is located four miles southwest of Drewsey in Harney County.

Boundaries: Highway 20 forms the north boundary, private land forms part of the boundary on the west, south, southeast and east, roads complete the boundary on the east and southeast.

Physical Characteristics: The northeast portion of the unit is flat while the remainder consists of gently rolling hills which rise to a plateau on top of Bartlett Mountain in the center of the unit. The vegetation is primarily big and low sagebrush with some scattered juniper in the draws and on the west side of the mountain.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: Three fenced springs, two reservoirs, six miles of fence, a crested wheatgrass seeding of 240 acres, a powerline, several short ways. The developments are dispersed through the unit and are not substantially noticeable.

Solitude: The northeast portion of the unit does not offer an opportunity for solitude because of the flat topography, small size, and low vegetative cover. The remainder of the unit offers a somewhat better opportunity for solitude due to the rolling hills and scattered juniper in the interior. However, this opportunity is limited by the small area involved and the gentleness of the slopes. This unit does not provide an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

Recreation: The unit offers opportunities for hiking, backpacking, hunting (deer, antelope chukar), trapping, and rockhounding, but the opportunities are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: An old cabin is located at Miler Spring. The eastern portion of the unit provides yearlong antelope range.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The unit appears to be generally natural with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable. However, it does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

Unit Number: 2-14

Unit Name: Malheur River-Bluebucket Creek

Revision of Unit Boundaries: Inventory Unit 2-14 contains 5,680 acres. The unit is divided by a road into two subunits. Subunit 2-14B contains only 120 acres and does not meet any of the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas.

Subunit Number: 2-14A

Description

Size: 5,560 acres.

Location: 12 miles northwest of Drewsey in Harney County.

Boundaries: One-half mile of Malheur National Forest land on the north, three miles of road on the southeast, and public land on the remaining boundaries. The boundary includes two miles of dead end road.

Physical Characteristics: The subunit consists of two high, flat top plateaus in the south and one plateau with gently rolling hills in the north. Between these plateaus flow the Malheur River and Bluebucket Creek. Rocky rims ring the plateaus. Steep canyon walls drop into the river and

creek bottoms. Elevation ranges from 4,180 feet to 5,200 feet. The vegetation includes big and low sagebrush, juniper, mountain mahogany, and ponderosa pine.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas.

Naturalness: Five reservoirs, three spring developments, three miles of fence, and two and one-half miles of vehicle ways. Most of these developments occur near the perimeter of the subunit making the imprint of man's work appear substantially unnoticeable throughout most of the area.

Solitude: The topography and vegetative screening in much of this subunit (the flat top tables) and the poor configuration of the unit's boundary, make it difficult to achieve an outstanding opportunity for solitude in much of this subunit. However, the vegetative screening provided by the ponderosa pine within the river bottoms does provide an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

Recreation: Opportunities for fishing, hiking, backpacking, rock climbing, sightseeing, and hunting are all offered within this subunit. Individually or combined the subunit offers outstanding opportunities for these activities.

Supplemental Values: The subunit offers scenic values within the canyon and overviews from the rims around the plateaus. The area provides critical deer winter range in addition to being in the migratory route for the local deer herd.

Proposed Decision: Designate a 5,580-acre wilderness study area.

Rationale: The subunit appears natural with the imprints of man's work substantially unnoticeable. The area also offers outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

Unit Number: 2-15

Unit Name: Otis Mountain

Revision of Unit Boundaries: Inventory Unit 2-15 contains 40,470 acres of public land. The unit is divided by roads into 19 subunits, 17 of which contain less than 5,000 acres of public land and do not meet any of the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas. These small subunits range in size from 360 acres to 3,170 acres and are not described below.

Subunit Number: 2-15H

Description

Size: 9,540 acres with one section of state land.

Location: Five miles northwest of Drewsey in Harney County.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded on the west by a road, and on all other sides by private land and small sections of road which connect the private parcels. The boundaries include two miles of dead end road.

Physical Characteristics: The dominant feature of this subunit is Merlie Table, a high relatively flat top plateau. This plateau area comprises

nearly all of the subunit except for the southern and southwestern portions where the table drops off into the Drewsey Valley. Much of the southern portion of the table has rocky rims and small drainages. The elevation ranges from 3,800 feet to 5,111 feet at the summit of Merlie Butte. The vegetation within the subunit includes big, low, and stiff sagebrush, grasses and juniper.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas.

Naturalness: Twelve miles of fenceline, four and a half miles of vehicle ways, and a reservoir. These developments are not substantially noticeable.

Solitude: The topography and vegetative screening offered within this subunit do not provide an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

Recreation: Activities such as hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, sightseeing and hunting could all occur in this subunit, but none of the opportunities for these activities are outstanding.

Supplemental Values: This area contains critical deer winter range and is in the migratory route for the local deer herd.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The subunit generally appears to be in a natural condition with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable. However, the area does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

Subunit Number: 2-15L

Description

Size: This subunit contains 6,770 acres of public land with a 160 acre parcel of private land inholding.

Location: Eight miles north of Drewsey in Harney County.

Boundaries: On the north and east by BLM roads except for a small corner of private land on the east, and on the south and west by private lands and small sections of roads. One mile of dead end road to the summit of Otis Mountain forms a portion of the boundary.

Physical Characteristics: The major features of this subunit include Otis Mountain and Birch Creek (an intermittent stream). The subunit is dominated by a ridge running through the center, which slopes sharply to the east into Birch Creek, and gently to the west. Otis Mountain is at the north end of this ridge. The elevation varies from 4,000 to 6,077 feet. The vegetation consists of big and low sagebrush, grasses, juniper, mountain mahogany, and ponderosa pine (in the Birch Creek Drainage).

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas.

Naturalness: Nine reservoirs, five miles of fenceline, six miles of vehicle ways, and a radio facility at the end of the dead end road on the summit of Otis Mountain. Although these developments are relatively concentrated within a small area the works of man generally appear to be substantially unnoticeable.

Solitude: Because of the subunit's small size and poor shape and the limited topographic and vegetative screening, opportunities for solitude are not outstanding.

Recreation: The activities that are possible within this subunit include hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, and hunting. The opportunities for these activities are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: This area provides critical deer winter range as well as being within the migratory route for the local deer herd.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The subunit appears to be in a relatively natural condition with the works of man substantially unnoticeable. However, the area does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

Unit Number: 2-16

Unit Name: Cottonwood Creek

Revisions of Unit Boundaries: Inventory Unit 2-16 contains 7,670 acres of BLM land. It is divided by road and non-public lands into five subunits. Four of the subunits contain less than 5,000 acres, ranging from 45 to 865 acres. None of the four subunits meet any of the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas. They are not described below.

Subunit Number: 2-16A

Description

Size: 6,410 acres.

Location: Six miles north of Drewsey in Harney County.

Boundaries: Malheur National Forest and private land form the northern boundary; private, state and public land bound the eastern side; private land and a road form the southern boundary and BLM land, state land and a road form the western boundary.

Physical Characteristics: The subunit consists of rolling hills. The general slope of the area is to the east. Squaw Creek is one of the major drainages and flows south into Cottonwood Creek. Cottonwood Reservoir is located on the eastern boundary and is 85 surface acres when full. The vegetation consists of ponderosa pine and juniper in the north and scattered juniper, big and low sage and grass throughout the remainder of the area.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas.

Naturalness: Two reservoirs are located within one quarter mile of the boundary. Three ways are concentrated in the central portion. Two and a half miles of fence exist. Cottonwood Reservoir is one mile long and one quarter mile wide and is a substantial intrusion due to the dam and spillway structures. A borrow pit is located on a hilltop in the western side of the subunit. The reservoirs, borrow pit, and ways are concentrated in the center of the subunit making the imprints of man substantially noticeable.

Solitude: The entire subunit is two miles wide or less and the low vegetation in three quarters of the area provides little screening. The juniper and ponderosa pine in the north provide good screening but the area is only one half mile wide where most of the vegetation occurs. Because of the narrow size of the area and limited topographic and vegetative screening this subunit does not offer the user an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

Recreation: Opportunities for hiking, backpacking, fishing and horseback riding exist within the subunit but they are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate the subunit from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The subunit contains works of man that are substantially noticeable. In addition, the area lacks outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

Unit Number: 2-17

Unit Name: Rocky Basin

Revision of Unit Boundaries: Inventory Unit 2-17 contains 12,700 acres of public land. The unit is divided by roads into six subunits. Five subunits contain less than 5,000 acres of public land and do not meet any of the minimun size criteria for wilderness study areas. These small subunits range in size from 70 acres to 4,730 acres and are not described below.

Subunit Number: 2-17E

Description

Size: 5,980 acres of public land, one 160 acre parcel of private land inholding.

Location: Six miles northeast of Drewsey in Harney County.

Boundaries: Roads form the boundaries on the west, north, east and part of the south with private and state lands forming the remainder of the southern boundary. One mile of dead end road forms a portion of the boundary.

Physical Characteristics: The subunit contains desert lowlands, gently rolling hills, and a high flat plateau. The elevation ranges from 3,700 to 5,088 feet. The dominant vegetation is big sage, grass, and juniper.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum criteria for wildernss study areas.

Naturalness: Six reservoirs, five miles of fence, six vehicle ways totaling about seven miles, and fire trails. Most of the developments are concentrated in the center of the subunit. The location of these developments and the relatively small size of the unit combine to make the works of man substantially noticeable in this subunit.

Solitude: Although the subunit has topographic diversity, it is not sufficient to compensate for the general lack of vegetative screening. The subunit does not have outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Recreation: The subunit offers opportunities for hiking, horseback riding, and hunting; however, these opportunities are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: Critical winter deer habitat.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The subunit does not generally appear to be in a natural condition; the imprints of man are substantially noticeable. In addition, the subunit does not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

Unit Number: 2-21

Unit Name: Beaver Tables I

Revision of Unit Boundaries: Inventory Unit 2-21, located four miles southeast of Crane in Harney County, contains 9,400 acres of public land. Unit 2-21 is divided by roads into 11 subunits. The subunits range in size from 40 to 2,325 acres. None of them are described below.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: None of the subunits meet any of the minimium size criteria for wilderness study areas.

Unit Number: 2-23

Unit Name: Stonehouse

Revision of Unit Boundaries: Inventory Unit 2-23 contains 163,340 acres of public land. Inholdings include 3,560 acres of state land and 21,600 acres of private land. Unit 2-23 is divided by roads and non-public lands into 66 subunits. Fifty-eight of these subunits contain less than 5,000 acres, ranging in size from 20 to 4,890 acres. None of the 58 subunits meet any of the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas. They are not described below.

Subunit Number: 2-23G

Description

Size: 20,900 acres of public land; 280 acres of private land in four parcels.

Location: 45 miles southeast of Burns.

Boundaries: The north boundary is private land and State Highway 78; the east boundary is private land and one mile of Highway 78; the south and west boundaries are BLM roads.

Physical Characteristics: The subunit is comprised of two high ridges with an intermittent stream flowing east through them. The eastern slopes are generally steeper than others in the subunit. Juniper is common on the rock outcroppings on the steep slopes as well as in the drainages. Big and low sage and grass are found throughout the subunit.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the size criteria.

Naturalness: Fifteen wildlife and stock reservoirs are located throughout the subunit; there are twelve miles of fences and four ways totaling four and one half miles. None of these developments is substantially noticeable.

Solitude: A road extends four miles into the main valley and deadends at a 700-acre parcel of private land. The road and private land act as a boundary which creates two narrow strips of land in the main portion of the subunit which would prevent one from achieving an outstanding sense of solitude. Even though the diverse topography and presence of some screening vegetation would allow one to achieve a sense of solitude, the configuration of the subunit prevents the opportunity from being outstanding.

Recreation: The subunit provides the opportunity for several types of recreational activities including hiking, backpacking, horseback riding and hunting but none are considered to be outstanding.

Supplemental Values: Approximately 50 wild horses inhabit the subunit and lands adjacent to it.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from furthe wilderness review.

Rationale: The unit appears to be generally natural with the developments substantially unnoticeable. However, it does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

Subunit Number: 2-23J

Description

Size: 6,200 acres of public land; 40 acres of private land in one parcel.

Location: 45 miles southeast of Burns.

Boundaries: Roads bound the entire subunit with the exception of the northwest corner which is bounded by private land.

Physical Characteristics: The subunit consists of two small ridges running along the north and south boundaries with Neal's Lake situated between them on the east side. Neal's Lake is a large flat area consisting of a dry meadow. One intermittent stream flows east through the area. Sagebrush is found throughout the subunit while juniper is common only on the rocky areas on the slopes. Silver sage and sedges are found around Neal's Lake.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: There is one livestock and wildlife reservoir in the Neal's Lake area, one way totaling one and one-half miles also in the Neal's Lake area, and three miles of fenceline. A 110-acre crested wheat-grass seeding in located in the western corner. These developments are substantially unnoticeable.

Solitude: The western portion of the subunit is only one-half mile wide or less in one part because of a 40-acre parcel of private land located between two boundary roads. The remaining portions are only two miles wide. The opportunity for solitude is extremely limited because subunit J is narrow, the ridges are small and sparsely covered with juniper and the eastern part is flat and open.

Recreation: The opportunity for several recreational activities exist and include hiking, backpacking, hunting and horseback riding; however, the lack of challenging terrain prevents the experience from being outstanding.

Supplemental Values: The subunit provides habitat for the 50 wild horses that inhabit the entire area.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The subunit appears to be natural and affected primarily by the forces of nature. However, the subunit lacks opportunities for visitors to obtain a sense of solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation that is considered to be outstanding.

Subunit Number: 2-23K

Description

Size: 6,000 acres.

Location: Twenty miles southeast of Princeton in Harney County.

Boundaries: Roads on the east and west, state land and roads on the north, private land and roads on the south.

Physical Characteristics: The topography consists of a high ridge in the east, broad flat expanses in the northwest, west, and central portions, and hills in the remainder of the unit. Mary's Lake, a dry meadow, is located near the western boundary. The vegetation is primarily low sagebrush, grasses, and some scattered juniper.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas.

Naturalness: Three reservoirs, two ways, two miles of fenceline. The developments are dispersed through the subunit and are not substantially noticeable.

Solitude: The subunit does not provide any outstanding opportunities for solitude due to a lack of good vegetative screening coupled with the openness of the topography.

Recreation: The subunit offers opportunities for hiking, backpacking, hunting (deer), and photography but none of the opportunities is outstanding.

Supplemental Values: Wild horses roam this subunit and deer and antelope obtain summer range here.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The subunit generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable. However, it does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

Subunit Number: 2-23L

Description

Size: 21,000 acres of public land; 500 acres in private ownership.

Location: 45 miles southeast of Burns, Harney County.

Boundaries: Roads bound the majority of the subunit except for a few sections on each boundary where private property is located.

Physical Characteristics: The subunit is characterized by the Steens Mountain north rim which is a rugged, steep, east facing slope. Stonehouse Creek and Squaw Creek are major drainages flowing east through rugged canyons. West of the rim in the southern end are rolling flats vegetated with big sage and grass with aspen growing along creeks and other

moist sites. The northern end is characterized by large valleys or flats located between gentle sloping ridges. Squaw Lake and several smaller ponds are located in the flat valleys in the central part of the subunit. The meadows are vegetated with crested wheatgrass, sedges, rushes and perennial forbs. The rock faces of the rims and canyons are vegetated with juniper and mountain mahogany.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas.

Naturalness: There are six livestock and wildlife reservoirs, four ways totaling two miles, two miles of fenceline and one horsetrap. These developments are dispersed throughout the subunit and appear substantially unnoticeable.

Solitude: The rugged terrain characteristic of the Steens Mountain north rim would provide an outstanding opportunity for visitors to isolate themselves from others. Even though the northwestern portion of the subunit consists of rolling hills and open valleys, the area is large enough that visitors would achieve an outstanding feeling of solitud. The size, relatively compact shape and rugged terrain of the subunit provide the opportunity for one to achieve an outstanding sense of solitude.

Recreation: Because of the subunit's size and rugged terrain, outstanding opportunities for hiking, backpacking, sightseeing, and photography are provided.

Supplemental Values: The entire subunit provides summer habitat for mule deer and antelope; and the area around Stonehouse Creek, particularly the steep rim, offers winter habitat for bighorn sheep. Fifty wild horses inhabit the area.

Proposed Decision: Designate a 21,000-acre wilderness study area.

Rationale: The subunit has been affected primarily by the force of nature and outstanding opportunities for solitude and a primitive and unconfined type of recreation exist.

Subunit Number: 2-23M

Description

Size: 12,590 acres of public land with 160 acres of private inholdings.

Location: 25 miles southeast of Princeton in Harney County.

Boundaries: Road and private property on the north, south, east, and west. One and one-half mile of dead end road forms a portion of the boundary.

Physical Characteristics: The topography consists of the Steens Mountain north rim running northeast to southwest; an area of broad, flat expanses and rolling hills west of the rim; an area with steep slopes and numerous drainages on the east side below the rim. The vegetation is primarily big and low sagebrush and grasses. The rim and some of the drainages have aspen, mountain mahogany, and juniper.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas.

Naturalness: Four reservoirs, five springs, two fencelines totaling four miles, four ways (4 miles), two obvious seedings, 1,900 acres of seeding which are substantially unnoticeable A 1,440-acre seeding located in the south is a major imprint of man, as is the 953-acre seeding on the eastern boundary. The remainder of the developments are dispersed through the subunit and are not substantially noticeable.

Solitude: The northwest portion of the subunit provides an outstanding opportunity for solitude because of the diversity in topography and vegetation. However, an area of 1,630 acres west of the southern seeding does not provide such an opportunity. It is isolated from the rest of the subunit by the seeding. Its limited size and lack of vegetative cover do not afford opportunities for visitors to avoid the sights and sounds of other visitors.

Recreation: The majority of the subunit offers outstanding opportunities for hiking, backpacking, hunting, photography, and sightseeing because of the challenging terrain and diversity in topography and vegetation. The seedings and the area to the west of the southern seeding do not offer such an opportunity.

Supplemental Values: Deer winter range occurs in the northwest portion of the subunit.

Proposed Decision: Designate an 8,570-acre wilderness study area. Exclude 4,020 acres because they lack wilderness characteristics.

Rationale: The proposed wilderness study area is generally free of the imprints of man's work and appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature. It offers outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined types of recreation. The areas lacking wilderness characteristics include the southern seeding of 1,440 acres and the eastern seeding of 950 acres where the imprint of man's work is substantially noticeable.

Subunit Number: 2-23HH

Description

Size: 6,070 acres.

Location: 20 miles south of Princeton in Harney County.

Boundaries: Roads and public land in the east, south and west, private land in the north. A core of private land containing 680 acres penetrates the subunit from the southeast border.

Physical Characteristics: The topography consists of rolling hills ridges, and canyons land along Smyth, Frog, and Shepherd Creeks. The vegetation is primarily big sagebrush and grasses with scattered juniper.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas.

Naturalness: Five and one-half miles of ways, a pipeline, five reservoirs, two miles of fenceline. The imprint of man's work is substantially noticeable.

Solitude: The subunit provides some opportunity for solitude but it is not outstanding due to the lack of good vegetative screening and the narrow finger configuration of the subunit.

Recreation: The subunit offers opportunities for hunting (deer, upland game, antelope), hiking, backpacking, and trapping but none of the opportunities are outstanding.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The subunit does not appear to be generally natural. The imprint of man's work is substantially noticeable. Subunit HH does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

Subunit Number: 2-23D'

Description

Size: 8,250 acres of public land with 200 acres of private inholdings. 2,880 acres of private land penetrate the subunit from the eastern and western boundaries.

Location: Eight miles southeast of Princeton in Harney County.

Boundaries: Roads and private land on all sides. One and one-half miles of dead end road forms a portion of the boundary.

Physical Characteristics: The topography consists of rolling ridges in the north, high ridges in the south, and several canyons. The elevation ranges from 4,200 feet to 6,226 feet on Anderson Mountain. The vegetation is primarily big sagebrush and grasses with some scattered juniper.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas.

Naturalness: Three reservoirs, a borrow pit, six miles of ways, an aerial seeding. The developments are substantially unnoticeable.

Solitude: The subunit does not provide an outstanding opportunity for solitude due to the fingered configuration of the boundary and the lack of good vegetative screening.

Recreation: The subunit offers opportunities for hunting (deer, antelope, upland game), rockhounding, hiking, backpacking, trapping, and horseback riding but none of the opportunities are outstanding.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The subunit generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable. However, it does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

Subunit Number: 2-23E'

Description

Size: 5,910 acres of public land with 960 acres of private inholdings.

Location: 15 miles southeast of Princeton in Harney County.

Boundaries: Roads, private land, public land to the east, south, and west; a road and public land to the north. Fingers of private land containing 1,560 acres penetrate the unit from the southwestern and southeastern boundaries.

Physical Characteristics: The topography consists of high ridges, canyons, and some meadows. The elevation ranges from 4,400 to 6,322 feet. The vegetation is primarily big sagebrush, juniper, and grasses.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria for wilderness study area.

Naturalness: Eight and one-half miles of ways, six reservoirs, 13 miles of fencelines. The developments are substantially noticeable.

Solitude: The subunit does not provide an outstanding opportunity for solitude due to the fingered shape of the subunit with narrow passages of public land.

Recreation: The subunit offers opportunities for hunting (deer, antelope, upland game), hiking, backpacking, and trapping but none of the opportunities are outstanding.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The subunit does not appear to be generally natural. The imprint of man's work is substantially noticeable. Subunit E' does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

Unit Number: 2-24

Unit Name: Fisher Flat

Revision of Unit Boundaries: Inventory Unit 2-24 contains 18,290 acres of public land. It is divided by roads into seven subunits. Six of the subunits contain less than 5,000 acres, ranging in size from 70 to 2,070 acres. None of the six subunits meet any of the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas. They are not described below.

Subunit Number: 2-24H

Description

Size: 11,920 acres.

Location: 10 miles southwest of Princeton in Harney County.

Boundaries: Private land in the northeast and northwest, roads and adjacent public land elsewhere. A dead end road forms a portion of the boundary

Physical Characteristics: The topography consists of flat topped plateaus and some canyons. The general elevation is 4,900 feet. The vegetation is primarily big sagebrush and grasses with small stands of juniper.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas.

Naturalness: Two reservoirs, one well, two waterholes, six miles of fenceline, a 320 acre seeding, six miles of ways, and a borrow pit at the end of the dead end road. With the exception of the borrow pit, the remaining developments are substantially unnoticeable.

Solitude: The subunit provides some opportunity for solitude but it is not outstanding due to the lack of good vegetation screening.

Recreation: The subunit offers opportunities for hunting (deer, antelope, upland game), rockhounding, hiking, horseback riding, backpacking, and trapping but none of the opportunities are outstanding.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The subunit generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable. However, it does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

Unit Number: 2-26

Unit Name: Diamond Craters

Revision of Unit Boundaries: Inventory Unit 2-26 contains 14,380 acres. It is divided by roads into four subunits. Three of the subunits contain less than 5,000 acres, ranging in size from 170 to 900 acres. None of the three subunits meet any of the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas. They are not described below.

Subunit Number: 2-26C

Description

Size: 13,290 acres.

Location: 12 miles southewest of Princeton in Harney County.

Boundaries: Private land and a road in the north and northeast, roads in the southeast and southwest, Malheur National Wildlife Refuge land in the northwest.

Physical Characteristics: The topography consists of lowlands in the north and ridges throughout the remainder of the subunit. A marsh is found in the northwest corner. Diamond Craters is a recent lava flow and the unit contains a variety of volcanic features. The vegetation includes a marsh community, greasewood, big sagebrush, and juniper where there are sufficient cracks in the basalt surface. There are areas with distinct plant communities adapted to the unique volcanic substrate.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas.

Naturalness: Five miles of fenceline, 14 miles of way, a dump, a borrow pit, and an area driven over by a bulldozer to crush the surface slab basalt for its removal. The developments are substantially unnoticeable.

Solitude: The subunit offers some opportunity for solitude in the rolling lowland areas where the surface basaltics add relief. However, most of the high ridge areas are devoid of surface basaltics and vegetation which limits the opportunity for solitude. The subunit does not provide an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

Recreation: The subunit offers opportunities for hunting, backpacking, and rockhounding but none of the opportunities are outstanding.

Supplemental Values: The subunit offers an outstanding collection of recent volcanic features in a relatively small area and is of geological and educational interest.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The subunit generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable. However, it does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

Unit Number: 2-74

Unit Name: Alvord Desert

Revision of Unit Boundaries: Inventory unit 2-74 contains approximately 290,000 acres within the Burns and Vale Districts. The unit is divided by roads into 18 subunits. Seven of these subunits contain less than 5,000 acres of public land and do not meet any of the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas. These small subunits range in size from 640 acres to 3,300 acres and are not described below.

Subunit Number: 2-74C

Description

Size: 25,180 acres of public land, 640 acres of state land in a one section parcel.

Location: Two miles north and east of Fields in Harney County.

Boundaries: Private land and a county road on the west, private land on the north, and on the east and the south by roads and adjacent public land. Three miles of dead end road form a portion of the boundary.

Physical Characteristics: An area of fairly rough topography exists in the southeast corner, rising, at one point, about 400 feet above the desert floor. The rest of the subunit consists of flat to gently rolling terrain with much of the relief consisting of scattered, stabilized sand dunes rising 20 to 30 feet above the floor of the desert. The vegetation includes a large variety of shrubs, with several grass and forb species mostly occurring in the dune areas. Most of the remaining land is covered by sagebrush and grasses.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas.

Naturalness: Two wildlife guzzlers and hundreds of miles of ways and tracks. The latter are visible throughout much of the desert floor, but are concentrated in the eastern third of the subunit. The developments are dispersed and are substantially unnoticeable; however, traces of man's presence are evident.

Solitude: The only portion of the area where topographic screening is sufficient to allow a feeling of solitude is the southeast corner of the subunit but this is not outstanding. The remainder of the unit's relatively flat topography and general lack of vegetative screening does not offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

Recreation: The subunit offers opportunities for hiking, backpacking, rock climbing, and horseback riding, but the opportunities are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: The sand dunes which cover much of the subunit provide a great diversity of plant and animal life, and are therefore of environmental and educational interest. The area, because of its terrain, allows for broad vistas of the surrounding mountain ranges (Steens Mountain and the Pueblo Mountains). However, these features are not within the subunit and the scenic values within the area itself are not exceptional.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: The subunit appears to be generally natural with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable. However, the subunit does not offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

Subunit Number: 2-74E

Description

Size: 22,500 acres of public land, 640 acres of private and 640 acres of state inholdings in four parcels.

Location: Ten miles north and east of Fields in Harney County.

Boundaries: Private land and BLM road on the northwest, state land and a BLM road on the east, BLM roads on the south and west.

Physical Characteristics: A 400-foot high ridge rises abruptly from the desert floor along most of the western side of the subunit. From the summit of this ridge the unit slopes gently to the east and to the north. Most of the small drainages within the subunit drain generally to the north. The majority of the subunit contains gently rolling hills. The major vegetative type is sagebrush.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas.

Naturalness: Mining in the northwestern corner of the subunit, a well in the southwestern corner, a powerline running through the southern end of the subunit. Many miles of ways, mostly on the eastern side of the area. All of the developments are dispersed throughout the subunit or located along the boundary, and are not substantially noticeable.

Solitude: This subunit has no vegetative screening and relatively little topographic diversity to provide sufficient screening to allow an outstanding feeling of solitude. Some small canyons cutting through the ridge on the west side would provide areas of solitude, but these are not outstanding. The unit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Recreation: This subunit offers opportunities for hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, and rock climbing; however, these opportunitie are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: Opportunities for viewing wild horses and off-sight scenery.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The subunit appears in a generally natural condition with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable. The subunit does not, however, offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive or unconfined type of recreation.

Subunit Number: 2-74F

Description

Size: 97,380 acres of public land, 2,560 acres of state land in four full sections scattered through the subunit, and 560 acres of private land in very small scattered parcels.

Location: Twenty miles north of Fields in Harney County.

Boundaries: Predominantly private land on the west, a road on the north and east, and two large parcels of private land and BLM roads on the south. Four dead end roads form portions of the boundary.

Physical Characteristics: The unit contains a wide variety of physical features. On the west is the Alvord Desert, a large playa with shifting sand and stabilized sand dunes along its eastern edge. Cliffs to the east of the sand dunes rise 600 to 800 feet above the desert floor in the north central portion of the subunit, and from 400 to 500 feet in the south central portion. The cliffs are the western edge of a large, relatively flat plateau which slopes gently toward the east. At the east edge of the subunit is a fairly large basin containing Coyote Lake and associated sand dunes. Coyote Lake is a playa. Most of the subunit is covered with big sagebrush. However, much of the area covered by the sand dunes contains a wide variety of plant species including varieties of grasses, forbs, and shrubs. There is no vegetation on either playa.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas.

Naturalness: One reservoir near a road boundary, two wells, a horsetrap, an access road which will be removed and returned to a relatively natural condition, and many miles of vehicle ways, particularly along the northern and western border of the subunit. The Alvord Desert lakebed is a traditional off-road vehicle recreation area. On the playa surface the tracks left by vehicles generally disappear with a heavy rain or spring flooding and are not substantially noticeable. The developments within the subunit are very widely dispersed and are not substantially noticeable.

Solitude: Most of this subunit is quite flat with little or no vegetation (the vegetation that is present is seldom higher than five or six feet). Even in the relatively flat area one can see for miles. Very broad vistas are common. The best place for achieving a sense of solitude is on the plateau just east of the desert floor. Because of its size, most of the subunit offers an outstanding opportunity for solitude. Three small irregularly shaped "arms" project out from the subunit. Two are bounded on two sides by private land and by a road, while the other is bounded by private land on three sides. These arms do not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude because of the inability to avoid the sights, sounds, and presence of others. Collectively they contain 950 acres.

Recreation: The subunit offers opportunities for hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, rockhounding and rock climbing. The rugged topography associated with the cliffs and plateau area would provide outstanding opportunities for some of the above activities.

Supplemental Values: This area does contain supplemental values. The playa bed and cliff formation are in themselves, interesting geological

features, while the sand dune areas provide educational and environmental interest because of the diversity of plant and animal life associated with them.

Proposed Decision: Designate a 96,430-acre wilderness study area. Exclude 950 acres because they lack wilderness characteristics.

Rationale: The proposed wilderness study area is generally free of the imprints of man's work having been affected primarily by the forces of nature. Because of its extreme size it offers outstanding opportunitie s for solitude and primitive and unconfined types of recreation. The areas excluded include three narrow arms projecting from the boundary because they do not provide an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

Subunit Number: 2-74G

Description

Size: 17,480 acres.

Location: Twelve miles southwest of Burns Junction in Malheur County.

Boundaries: This subunit is bounded on all sides by roads and adjacent public land with the exception of three sections of state land scattered around the perimeter.

Physical Characteristics: This subunit has no dominant physical features. It consists of low rolling hills and small drainages. The vegetation is predominantly grass and sagebrush.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas.

Naturalness: Two wells, and several small reservoirs (most of the latter occur along the western road boundary). All the developments occur along the edge of the subunit, and are substantially unnoticeable throughout the remainder of the area.

Solitude: Because of the general lack of topographic or vegetative screening this area does not offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

Recreation: This subunit offers opportunities for hiking, back packing and horseback riding, but the opportunities are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The subunit appears to be generally natural with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable. However, it does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

Subunit Number: 2-74I

Description:

Size: 15,720 acres of public land, 1,120 acres of private land scattered in small parcels throughout the subunit.

Location: Fifteen miles southwest of Burns Junction in Malheur County.

Boundaries: On the west by private land, on the north by a BLM road and adjacent private land, and on the east and south by a county road (old military road) and adjacent public land.

Physical Characteristics: The area features a small butte located in the southeastern portion of the subunit. From the top of the butte small drainages and gently rolling hills trail off to the flatlands which surround the subunit outside the boundary. The dominant vegetation within the area is sagebrush with some saltbush species in the northwestern corner.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas.

Naturalness: No developments were found during the intensive inventory of this area. Man's imprint is substantially unnoticeable throughout the subunit.

Solitude: Limited topographic and vegetative screening prevent the area from offering an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

Recreation: Hiking, backpacking and horseback riding are recreation activities which could occur within this subunit, however, these opportunities are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: The subunit appears to be in a natural condition with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable. However, it does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

Subunit Number: 2-74K

Description

Size: 5,690 acres of public land, 160 acres of private land located in the center of the subunit.

Location: Twenty miles northeast of Fields in Harney County.

Boundaries: BLM roads on the north and south, private land on the east, and state land on the extreme western boundary.

Physical Characteristics: This area is predominantly flat with a few very gently rolling hills. The dominant vegetation is grass and sagebrush.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria for wildernes study areas.

Naturalness: No man-made developments were found during the intensive inventory of this subunit. Man's imprint within the area is substantially unnoticeable.

Solitude: Because of the limited topographic and vegetative screening, the area does not offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

Recreation: Recreation activities which could occur in this are include hiking, backpacking, and horseback riding. The opportunities for these activities are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Although the area appears to be in a basically natural condition with man's imprint substantially unnoticeable, the subunit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

Subunit Number: 2-74L

Description

Size: 7,100 acres of public and 120 acres of private inholdings in three 40 acre parcels on the west side of the subunit.

Location: Fifteen miles northeast of Fields in Harney County.

Boundaries: Private land forms the eastern boundary with BLM roads and adjacent public land on the remaining sides.

Physical Characteristics: The topography of this area is typically flat to gently rolling with several small drainages. A moderate sized butte with some rimrock exists in the southern portion of the subunit. The dominant vegetation includes sagebrush and grass.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas.

Naturalness: A substantially noticeable powerline (two poles) runs along the southern edge of the subunit affecting approximately 300 acres. Except for several miles of vehicle ways scattered through the subunit, there are no other developments within the area. The imprint of man work north of the powerline is substantially unnoticeable.

Solitude: The extent of the topographic screening provided by the butte and rims does not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude The remaining portion of the subunit with its generally flat terrain and low vegetation offers no opportunities for outstanding solitude.

Recreation: This subunit offers opportunities for hiking, backpacking, and horseback riding, however, these opportunities are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: With the exception of about 300 acres affected by a powerline in the southern portion of the area, the subunit appears to be generally free of the imprint of man's work. However, none of this subunit offers outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

Subunit Number: 2-74M

Description

Size: 27,370 of public land, 320 acres of state and 320 acres of private land contained in one section in the northwest corner of the subunit.

Location: Ten miles east of Fields in Harney County.

Boundaries: BLM roads and adjacent public land on the east and west, the powerline road on the north, and private land to the south.

Physical Characteristics: This subunit features two ridgelines and three large buttes including Flagstaff Butte on the south and Lookout Butte and Buckskin Mountain on the east. A ridgeline along the western side is the only relief in the desert floor between the boundary road and the major ridge which runs through the middle of the subunit. This ridge has three steps. The uppermost step flattens to a high plateau approximately 600 feet above the desert floor to the west. On top of the plateau the land is relatively

flat with gently rolling hills providing the only topographic relief. The dominant vegetation in the area is grass and sagebrush.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria for wildernes study area.

Naturalness: Approximately 960 acres seeded to crested wheatgrass on the plateau north of Lookout Butte with an additional 600 acres of land treatment (spraying), one reservoir, one spring development, a radio facility and access road (1 mile) on top of Lookout Butte, a mine on the west side of Flagstaff Butte in the south, Flagstaff Seeding (approximately 640 acres noticeable because of the fenceline and vegetation difference), several wildlife guzzlers at the foot of the large ridge in the center of the area, a temporary road (2 miles) to a horse trapping area on the middle step of the ridgeline, the powerline on the northern boundary, and many miles of vehicle ways. The cumulative impact of these major and minor intrusions make the imprint of man's work substantially noticeable throughout the subunit.

Solitude: The topographic diversity within the subunit would provide sufficient screening to achieve outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Recreation: Hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, sightseeing, rock climbing and rockhounding could all occur within this subunit. Because of the topography, the area provides a degree of challenge, risk and scenery which would make the opportunities for these activities outstanding.

Supplemental Values: Portions of this subunit may have archaeological value because of evidence (artifacts) of early Indian cultures. Cactus, a relatively uncommon plant species for this part of the area, were also found within the subunit.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from futher wilderness review.

Rationale: The subunit offers outstanding opportunities for solitude and a primitive and confined type of recreation. However, because of the many developments and intrusions within this subunit, the imprint of man's work is substantially noticeable causing the area to appear generally unnatural.

Subunit Number: 2-74N

Description

Size: 10,470 acres.

Location: Seventeen miles east of Fields in Harney County.

Boundaries: Private land on the north, BLM roads and adjacent public land on the east, west, and south, and a county road on the southeast. A portion of the boundary is formed by three miles of dead end road extending through the center of the unit to a radio facility.

Physical Characteristics: The dominant features within this subunit are two large buttes, the largest of which is Red Mountain. The smaller butte lies to the north and east of Red Mountain. The remainder of the land within the subunit slopes away from the buttes with gently rolling topography. The exception to this is on the southeast side where a rim runs from half way up the slope of the mountain south to the edge of the unit. The dominant vegetation within the area includes grass and sagebrush.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: This subunit meets the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas.

Naturalness: Several diatomite mine pits in the southern corner, approximately 160 acres of substantially noticeable crested wheatgrass seeding on the western-most corner, and a radio facility on the smaller butte northeast of Red Mountain. With the exception of these intrusions man's imprint in the remainder of the subunit is substantially unnoticeable.

Solitude: Throughout most of this subunit there is a general lack of topographic and vegetative screening which would not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude. In addition, the existence of the road intruding into the center of the subunit would lessen the chance of obtaining outstanding solitude. The road nearly cuts the subunit in half. Small portions of Red Mountain would offe some opportunities for solitude but they are not outstanding.

Recreation: The subunit offers opportunities for hiking, backpacking, rock climbing and horseback riding, but these opportunities are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The subunit generally appears to be in a natural condition with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable. However the area does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

Subunit Number: 2-74P

Description

Size: 5,680 acres.

Location: Seventeen miles east of Fields in Harney County.

Boundaries: A county road bounds the subunit on the east, with BLM roads and adjacent public lands forming the remainder of the boundaries. A portion of the boundary is formed by a dead end road to diatomite pits on the east.

Physical Characteristics: The subunit lies between Buckskin Mountain on the west and Red Mountain on the east, and in general, serves as the lower drainage area for Buckskin Mountain. The land is gently rolling with the dominant native vegetation consisting of sagebrush and grass.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum criteria for wilderness study areas.

Naturalness: A 2,460-acre fenced crested wheatgrass seeding dominates the subunit. In addition, approximately seven diatomite mine pits scar about 400 acres on the east side of the subunit, with one pit on the west side. Several miles of vehicle ways cross through the subunit. The imprint of man's work within this subunit, is substantially noticeable throughout.

Solitude: The general lack of topographic and natural vegetative screening provides no opportunities for outstanding solitude.

Recreation: The recreational opportunity offered in this subunit would only include hiking and this opportunity is not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The subunit does not appear to be generally natural as the imprints of man's work are substantially noticeable. The subunit offers no opportunities for outstanding solitude or primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

Subunit Number: 2-74R

Description:

Size: 42,060 acres.

Location: Eight miles southwest of Burns Junction in Malheur County.

Boundaries: Roads and adjacent public land on all sides.

Physical Characteristics: Coyote Lake, a large playa, is on the western boundary of the subunit. North and east of the lake to the eastern boundary the land is relatively flat with only gently rolling hills to create any diversity. Much of the subunit is covered by areas of sand dunes with a variety of plants.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas.

Naturalness: The imprint of man's work within the area is substantially unnoticeable.

Solitude: The area is essentially flat with vegetation seldom exceeding 12 to 14 inches in height. The higher elevations support mixed stands of sagebrush and other plants rarely exceeding 24 inches in height. Because of this almost total lack of topographic diversity or vegetative screening, this subunit does not provide an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

Recreation: No outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation have been identified in this subunit.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The subunit appears to be generally natural, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable. However, it does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

Unit Number: 2-79

Unit Name: Pueblo Slough

Revision of Unit Boundaries: Inventory Unit 2-79 contains 21,240 acres of public land. It is divided by roads and non-public lands into thirteen subunits. Twelve of the subunits contain less than 5,000 acres, ranging in size from 130 to 3,500 acres. None of the twelve subunits meet any of the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas. They are not described below.

Subunit Number: 2-79F

Description

Size: 6,280 acres.

Location: 10 miles southeast of Fields in Harney County.

Boundaries: BLM roads on the north, south, and parts of the west and east; private land on the west and east; and a county road on the east.

Physical Characteristics: The subunit is a flat desert floor with an elevation of 4,200 feet. The vegetation includes big sagebrush, rabbitbrush, salt desert shrub species, and riparian plant species.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit does not meet the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas.

Naturalness: Eight miles of fence, several ways, three wells, a powerline, and a fenced crested wheatgrass seeding of 1,470 acres. The seeding is very noticeable. In the remainder of the subunit, the works of man are not substantially noticeable.

Solitude: Due to the flat topography, low vegetative cover, and small size of the subunit the user does not have an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

Recreation: The unit offers an opportunity for hiking but the opportunity is not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The subunit does not meet the size criteria after deleting a substantially noticeable seeding. It does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

Unit Number: 2-81

Unit Name: Pueblo Mountains

Revision of Unit Boundaries: Inventory Unit 2-81 contains 77,380 acres of public land in Oregon. The unit is contiguous with Inventory Unit NV-020-642 in the Winnemucca District, Nevada, which contains 10,880 acres of public land. In total, the 88,260-acre unit is divided by roads into 15 subunits. 13 of these subunits contain less than 5,000 acres of public land and range in size from 30 acres to 3,580 acres. None of the 13 subunits meet any of the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas and are not described below.

Subunit Number: 2-81K

Description

Size: 11,260 acres.

Location: Seven miles south of Fields in Harney County.

Boundaries: A road and state land on the north, a county road on the east, and roads and scattered private lands on the south and west. A portion of the boundary is formed by five and one-half miles of dead end roads.

Physical Characteristics: The topography of this area basically consists of rolling hills and foothills. Three moderate drainages cross the subunit creating small canyons. The vegetation includes sagebrush and grasses in the hills, willows in the drainages, and aspen, mountain mahogany and other browse species where there are springs to provide sufficient water. The elevation ranges from 4,500 to 7,500 feet.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas.

Naturalness: A one-mile and a two-and one-half-mile way. Mining claims and the remains of four inactive claims and abandoned tailings and roads make a substantially noticeable impact on 3,350 acres of land in the northern portion of the subunit. An additional 110 acres (in two areas) of the southeastern portion of the subunit contain substantially noticeable mining scars including abandoned roads, tailings and excavated areas. The remainder of the subunit appears to be in a generally natural condition with man's imprint substantially unnoticeable.

Solitude: Poor boundary configuration created by private land and roads createsa narrow corridor of only one half mile in the southwestern corner of the subunit and severely limits the ability to avoid the sights, sounds and evidence of others within this portion of the subunit. In the northern portion of the subunit, because of the general lack of vegetative screening, the area does not offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

Recreation: The subunit provides opportunities for hunting, rock-hounding, hiking, backpacking, trapping and horseback riding, however, the opportunities are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: With the exception of 3,460 acres where man's work is substantially noticeable, the subunit appears to be natural and generally free of the imprint of man's work. However, the subunit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

Subunit Number: 2-81L

Description

Size: This subunit contains 68,440 acres of public land in Oregon and Nevada, 320 acres of private land, and 1,280 acres of state land in two 640-acre parcels.

Location: Six miles southwest of Fields in Harney County.

Boundaries: BLM roads, state and private lands on the north and west, BLM roads, county roads, and private land on the east, BLM roads on the south. Portions of the boundary are formed by 14.5 miles of dead end roads.

Physical Characteristics: The topography of this subunit is varied. It contains the high peaks of the Pueblo Mountains, some basin areas between peaks, steep slopes, and large drainages and canyons. The elevation within the area ranges from 4,500 feet to over 9,000 feet. The vegetative cover includes sagebrush and grass in the lower foothills, aspen and mountain mahogany in the higher elevations where there is sufficient water and a

variety of annual and perennial plants and aspen in the basin area where there are numerous springs.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas.

Naturalness: Inactive, abandoned mines and associated tailings, ways, bladed scars, and habitations are located in portions of the subunit and are substantially noticeable intrusions. The majority of the land affected by these disturbances is in the southeastern portion of the subunit. The presence of other intrusions within the southeastern corner--including fences, ways, and spring developments--would make it difficult for a visitor to pass through this area without noticing the imprints of man. A powerline extends south from the Colony Ranch just inside the southeastern border but is substantially unnoticeable. Another powerline, which is substantially noticeable, cuts across the southwestern corner and detracts from the naturalness of approximately 600 acres. The total area substantially impacted by mining, grazing developments, and other imprints of man is 12,060 acres. The remainder of the subunit appears generally free of the imprint of man's work. The 20 miles of vehicle ways and trails, six reservoirs, and many miles of fences are dispersed throughout the subunit.

Solitude: Because of its rugged topography and large size, the subunit offers outstanding opportunities for solitude. Although a narrow neck is created in the south central portion of the area, the three-quarter mile gap between the private parcels is sufficiently rugged to provide an opportunity for solitude.

Recreation: Opportunities for recreation include hunting, rockhounding, hiking, backpacking, horseback riding and sightseeing. Because of the rugged terrain and amount of diversity within the area, the opportunities for these activities are outstanding.

Supplemental Values: Historical interest associated with past mining activities, geological features of interest associated with the physical formation of the mountains and mineral exploration.

Proposed Decision: Designate a 55,380-acre wilderness study area; (50,460 acres in Oregon and 4,920 acres in Nevada). Delete 12,060 acres associated with past mining efforts and other intrusions because the imprint of man's work is substantially noticeable.

Rationale: With the exception of 12,060 acres affected by scattered mining activities and grazing, the subunit appears to be in a basically natural condition with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable. The subunit offers outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

Unit Number: 2-82

Unit Name: Rincon

Revisions of Unit Boundaries: Inventory Unit 2-82 contains approximately 156,560 acres of BLM land. Roads divide the unit into 10 subunits. Four of the subunits contain less than 5,000 acres and do not meet any of the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas. They are not described below.

Subunit Number: 2-82C

Description

Size: 11,100 acres of public land; 740 acres of private and state inholdings located in four parcels.

Location: Two miles west of Fields, Harney County.

Boundaries: Roads bound the entire subunit with the exception of private land which bounds small sections in the north, southeast and west.

Physical Characteristics: The topography consists of the extreme northern portion of the Pueblo Mountains with generally east-facing slopes. The eastern slope is characterized by layers of exposed, lichen covered rock and several intermittent streams. The western portion of the subunit consists of flat to rolling slopes which gradually rise to the ridgeline. The slopes on the eastern side gradually give way to rolling flatlands. Big sage and grass are the main types of vegetation found in the subunit.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas.

Naturalness: Two and three-quarters miles of fenceline exist, which constitute the only man-made development in the subunit.

Solitude: The location of non-public parcels of land severely limit the opportunity for one to achieve solitude. Two parcels of non-public land totaling 680 acres are situated west of the ridgeline, with one corner of a 640 acre parcel located on the ridge itself. The ridge lies in the center of the area, within one half mile of the western boundary, and one mile from the northern boundary. The northern and northeastern boundary lies between one-half and one and one-half miles from the ridgetop, preventing an opportunity for outstanding solitude. The lack of vegetative screening limits the opportunity for seclusion when considered with the configuration.

Recreation: The subunit offers opportunities for hiking, backpacking, and hunting but they are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The subunit appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature with the imprints of man substantially unnoticeable. However, the subunit does not provide an outstanding opportunity for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

Subunit Number: 2-82D

Description

Size: 10,990 acres of public land; 480 acres of state land.

Location: Directly west of Fields, Harney County.

Boundaries: Roads bound the subunit on the west, southwest and southeast and private land forms part of the southern and northwest boundaries. Long Hollow County road, state land and a BLM road form the northern boundary.

Physical Characteristics: The elevation ranges from 4,200 feet in the eastern lowlands to a summit of 6,500 feet in the central portion of the subunit. Rolling hills and gentle slopes comprise the eastern half and a high plateau with a steep east slope dominates the western half. Several intermittent streams flow east from the plateau. Vegetation includes sagebrush, grass, and mountain mahogany.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas.

Naturalness: A double pole 115-KV powerline passes through one section in the northern end. Six ways totaling 13 and one-half miles, eight miles of fenceline, four stock and wildlife reservoirs, and a 1,580-acre crested wheatgrass seeding are located within the subunit. The powerline and seeding are substantially noticeable. However, even after eliminating them from the original subunit, the works of man are still substantially noticeable due to the number and placement of ways and fences. One of these developments occurs in almost every section, making it difficult to avoid them. The subunit contains works of man that are substantially noticeable.

Solitude: The diverse topography would allow the visitor to achieve a sense of solitude but it is not outstanding due to the openness of the area and lack of vegetation for screening.

Recreation: The subunit offers opportunities for hiking, backpacking, horseback riding and hunting, but the opportunities are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The subunit contains developments of man that are substantially noticeable and in addition, the opportunities for solitude and an unconfined and primitive type of recreation are not outstanding.

Subunit Number: 2-82G

Description

Size: 18,800 acres of contiguous BLM land; a 320 acre parcel of private land and a 640 acre parcel of state land.

Location: Eight miles west of Fields, Harney County.

Boundaries: Roads identified by public comment with the exception of state parcels on the west, southeast and northeast. A few private parcels form boundaries on the south and east.

Physical Characteristics: The northern three miles of the subunit is only one and one-half miles wide and includes the northern-most ridge of the Pueblo Mountains. The central area is characterized by several small buttes which gradually level out to a flat, low plateau which is typical of the southern end. The vegetation includes big sage, grass and one lone juniper.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas.

Naturalness: Two miles of fence, five stock and wildlife reservoirs and two miles of ways exist within the subunit. Three thousand three hundred acres of the Rincon Seeding are located in the southeastern corner. The seeding is an obvious intrusion. The other developments are dispersed through the area and are not substantially noticeable.

Solitude: The ridge in the north would screen visitors on one side from those on the other but it only extends one-fifth of the subunit length and is only one to one and one-half miles wide. The entire subunit lacks

vegetative screening and the southern half is open and generally flat, providing little opportunity for visitors to achieve a feeling of solitude. Because of the limited topographic and vegetative screening in the entire subunit and the narrow width of the northern half, opportunities for solitude are not outstanding.

Recreation: The subunit provides opportunities for hunting, hiking, backpacking and horseback riding but the opportunities are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The subunit appears to be natural with man-made intrusions, except the Rincon seeding (3,300 acres), being substantially unnoticeable; but it does not offer outstanding opportunities for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation or solitude.

Subunit Number 2-82H

Description

Size: 42,750 acres of contiguous BLM land; 360 acre parcel of private land; two parcels of state land totaling 1,280 acres.

Location: 11 miles west of Fields, Harney County.

Boundaries: Long Hollow county road and private land on the north; a road identified by public comment, state land and two dead end roads form the eastern boundary; Hawk Valley-Lone Mountain road comprises the southern boundary and Funnel Canyon road and one section of state land form the western boundary.

Physical Characteristics: The topography is diverse. The elevation ranges from 4,000 feet in the northwest corner to a high point of nearly 6,000 feet in the Lone Mountain area in the southern portion. Catlow Rim extends south almost 15 miles and reaches an elevation of 6,000 feet at Square Mountain in the northwestern corner of the subunit. The rim has several deep canyons and is characterized by rugged rock cliffs that face west. A flat open valley lies between Catlow Rim and the western boundary road, with several areas of dry lake beds. A large plateau with some rolling hills lies between the rim and the eastern boundary road. The southern area consists of Lone Mountain which covers approximately three miles in the subunit. The mountain contains pinnacles and columns of rhyodacitic rock. A large stand of juniper is located at Juniper Springs in the southeast corner. The rest of the subunit is vegetated with big sage, rabbitbrush, grass and mountain mahogany.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas.

Naturalness: Seven miles of fences, 14 miles of ways, 11 stock and wildlife reservoirs, two guzzlers and three miles of pipeline are located within the subunit. In addition, approximately 4,000 acres of a crested wheatgrass seeding is located in the far southwestern corner. However, only 3,100 acres are substantially noticeable. A gravel pit is located in the northwestern corner in section five and is substantially noticeable. Because of the large size of the subunit and the dispersement of the developments, the works of man--other than the gravel pit and part of the seeding--appear to be substantially unnoticeable.

Solitude: Except for the area around Juniper Springs the subunit lacks vegetative screening. However, due to the diverse topography and large size of the area, opportunities to avoid the sights and sounds of others are outstanding.

Recreation: The subunit offers outstanding opportunities for hiking, backpacking, photography, and sightseeing for geologic reasons.

Supplemental Values: Lone Mountain area is an interesting geologic area. An abandoned Indian cave is located in the subunit.

Proposed Decision: Designate a 39,380-acre wilderness study area. Exclude 3,100 acres of the Hawk Valley seeding because it is an obvious intrusion, and exclude a 270-acre corner in sections 5 and 4 in the northwestern corner because of an intrusive gravel pit.

Rationale: The imprints of man are substantially unnoticeable in the proposed wilderness study area, which appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature. It offers outstanding opportunities for both solitude and primitive and confined type of recreation. The Hawk Valley seeding should be excluded because it lacks wilderness characteristics.

Subunit Number: 2-82I

Description

Size: 54,600 acres of public land and three parcels of state land totaling 3,200 acres.

Location: Eight miles southwest of Fields, Harney County.

Boundaries: Roads form the boundaries on all sides except for a few sections of state and private land on the eastern boundary. A four and one half mile dead end road extends south from the northern boundary.

Physical Characteristics: The northern end of the subunit consists of flat lowlands that gradually rise in elevation to the south. The highest summit of Lone Mountain is located in the southwest portion with an elevation of 6,520 feet. The rhyodacitic columns and pinnacles extend approximately four to five miles across the southwestern corner of the subunit. The central area is comprised of a wide, nearly flat valley which rises steeply to Oregon End Table on the eastern side. Oregon End Table extends five miles north to south and three miles east to west at the widest point. This area is extremely rocky and is characterized by rimrock around the plateau's edge. Big sage and grass are the dominant vegetation types in the subunit.

Wilderness Characteristics

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria for a wilderness study area.

Naturalness: The eastern half of the subunit is not used for grazing and is almost free of developments. Oregon End Well and a powerline are located in the far southeastern corner of the subunit. They are obvious intrusions. In addition a way leads up to Oregon End Table near the well. The works of man are substantially noticeable in approximately 1,024 acres in the southeastern corner. Approximately 2,220 acres of the Rincon crested wheatgrass seeding lies within the subunit boundary in the northeast corner, and is an obvious intrusion. Eleven miles of ways, five reservoirs, one well, one and a half mile of fence and three guzzlers are located in the subunit.

All the developments are located on the perimeter of the subunit except for the guzzlers and a way over Lone Mountain. Except for Rincon Seeding and the 1,024-acre area around Oregon End Well, the works of man appear to be substantially unnoticeable.

Solitude: The southern end, including Lone Mountain and Oregon End Table, would provide outstanding opportunities for solitude. The subunit offers an outstanding opportunity for visitors to achieve a sense of solitude because of the large size and somewhat diverse topography.

Recreation: Outstanding opportunities for hiking, backpacking, and sightseeing for geologic reasons exist in the subunit.

Supplemental Values: The southern half of the subunit serves as crucial range for antelope; Lone Mountain is a unique area geologically; Indian petroglyphs are located within the subunit.

Proposed Decision: Designate a 51,515-acre wilderness study area. Exclude 2,060 acres of Rincon seeding because it lacks wilderness characteristics and 1,024 acres in the southeast corner due to Oregon End Well and a way which also lack wilderness characteristics.

Rationale: The proposed wilderness study area is generally free of the works of man and appears to be affected primarily by the force of nature. It offers outstanding opportunities for solitude and a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. The Oregon End Well area and Rincon seeding lack wilderness characteristics and should be excluded.

Subunit Number: 2-82J

Description

Size: 6,500 acres.

Location: 13 miles west of Fields, Oregon in Harney County.

Boundaries: Private land bounds the subunit on the northeast corner and roads form the remaining boundaries.

Physical Characteristics: The majority of the subunit is flat to rolling with one small plateau located in the central area and a small ridge along the southwest boundary road. The vegetation consists of big sage and grass.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas.

Naturalness: There are five miles of ways and two stock and wildlife reservoirs. The developments are dispersed and are not substantially noticeable.

Solitude: The southwestern portion is only one mile wide and the remaining part of the subunit is two miles wide. In addition, the subunit lacks topographic diversity and vegetative screening that would enhance the opportunity for outstanding solitude. Because of the narrow width and lack of topographic and vegetative screening, the subunit does not offer the visitor an outstanding opportunity for a feeling of solitude.

Recreation: There are opportunities for hiking, hunting, and horseback riding but they are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: The subunit appears to be natural with the works of man substantially unnoticeable. However, opportunities for outstanding solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation do not exist.

Vale District

Unit Number: 3-36

Unit Name: Roger's Place

Revisions of Unit Boundaries: Inventory Unit 3-36 contains 9,300 acres. During the intensive inventory the south boundary was found to be a way. The new boundary included an additional 3,720 acres, bringing the unit to a total of 13,020 acres.

Description

Size: The unit contains 13,020 acres. There is one private inholding of 160 acres.

Location: The unit is six miles southeast of Riverside, Oregon.

Boundaries: There is private land on the west and south. The rest is bounded by BLM and county roads.

Physical Characteristics: Most of the unit is a large mesa sloping to the north, west, and south. There are rolling hills, breaks, and rim rock in the remainder of the unit. The vegetation is high desert shrub community with native grasses, scattered junipers, and mountain mahogany.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas.

Naturalness: Three reservoirs along the north boundary, five miles of ways, and a fence are substantially unnoticeable in the unit. A substantially noticeable canal cuts across the southwest corner. Except for the southern portion, the unit appears generally natural.
added as a result of the boundary change is substantially intruded.

Solitude: The unit offers only limited locations for isolation due to its general narrowness and lack of vegetative screening. The unit is only three miles wide and five miles long, with a one mile wide neck in the center. The opportunity for solitude is not outstanding.

Recreation: There are opportunities to hunt, backpack, hike, horseback ride, photograph and sightsee in the unit, but these opportunities cannot be considered outstanding.

Supplemental Values: The only known supplemental value is the possibility of archeological resources along the Dry Creek drainage.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The unit appears to be generally natural with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable in most of the area. The southern portion is substantially intruded. The unit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation and therefore does not meet wilderness criteria.

Unit Number: 3-151

Unit Name: Whitehorse Butte

Revisions of Lnit Boundaries: Inventory Unit 3-151 originally contained 8,720 acres. During the intensive inventory a portion of the western boundary was found to be a way. The new boundary, formed by a road and private land, results in an additional 400 acres being included in the unit, bringing the total to 9,120 acres. A road in the northeast portion of the unit divides it into two subunits. Subunit 3-151B contains only 560 acres and does not meet the minimum size criteria for a wilderness study area. It is not described below.

Subunit Number: 3-151A

Description

Size: The unit contains 8,560 acres, which includes 440 acres of state exchange land presently in the process of being acquired. These is no private land in the unit.

Location: The unit is located three miles south of the Whitehorse Ranch.

Boundaries: The northern boundary is private property. The other boundaries are a combination of private property and BLM roads.

Physical Characterists: This unit is composed of Whitehorse Butte, its northern slope and Little Whitehorse Canyon to the east. Shallow drainages flow off the butte. The vegetation is desert sage and grasses, with small willows in the canyon.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The only intrusions are eight miles of ways and a small portion of a seeding in the southeast corner. This seeding has presently been heavily impacted by grazing and trampling, and is no longer noticeable as a seeding.

Solitude: The unit does not offer a great number of isolated locations due to the general slope of the area and lack of vegetative screening. The majority of the unit slopes off Whitehorse Butte, with no topographic screening.

Recreation: One can backpack, hike, hunt, horseback ride, and enjoy photography and sightseeing. Sightseeing and hiking would be the most popular. Views from here include the Alvord, Steens, Trout Creeks, Pueblos, Antelope and Whitehorse Canyons, Flagstaff Butte and Red Mountain.

However, the only major attraction in the unit is Whitehorse Butte. None of the activities would be considered outstanding.

Supplemental Values: Scenic views from Whitehorse Butte are excellent. Historical values are unknown. Geologic values are present and the area offers a hot spring and volcanic flows.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The unit appears to be generally natural with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable. However, it does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

Unit Number: 3-154

Unit Name: Sand Dunes

Description

Size: The unit contains 6,680 areas, which includes 320 acres of state exchange land presently in the process of being acquired. There is no private property in the unit.

Location: The unit is located eight miles north of the Whitehorse Ranch.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded entirely by roads.

Physical Characteristics: West and north boundaries are at the base of tall rims which slope off towards the east and south. At the bottom of the eastern slope the area is primarily sand dunes. The dunes are 5 to 15 feet tall. One drainage flows out to the south end. There is water in the drainage, and the vegetation is relatively lush compared to the sagebrush community in the rest of the unit. On the dunes there is some sage, but the ground cover is typical of a sandy environment.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: There are no developments in the unit. It appears to be generally natural and affected primarily by the forces of nature.

Solitude: Opportunity for solitude is limited due to the size of the area and the lack of vegetative screening. The small sand dunes provide limited topographic screening.

Recreation: The unit offers opportunities for sightseeing and photography of a sand dune environment and wildlife. Hiking and backpacking opportunities are limited. The unit does not offer any outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation.

Supplemental Values: The area offers opportunities for study of ancient lakeshore geomorphology. This area is geologically interesting, but it does not readily lend itself to geologic interpretation. The dunes are small remnants that are largely stabilized by vegetation. Since there is water near the unit, wildlife--including wild horses--inhabit the area.

The area may have been an active Indian hunting ground.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The unit appears to be generally natural with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable. However, it does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

Unit Number: 3-156

Unit Name: Fifteenmile

Revisions of Unit Boundaries: Inventory Unit 3-156 contains 60,840 acres. It is divided by roads into three subunits. Two of the subunits contain less than 5,000 acres, (560 and 160 acres) and do not meet any of the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas. They are not described below.

Subunit Number: 3-156A

Description

Size: The unit contains 60,120 acres of public land which includes 3,200 acres of state exchange land presently in the process of being acquired. Three 40-acre parcels of private property are located within the unit.

Location: The unit is located three miles southwest of the Whitehorse Ranch.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded on the north, south and east by BLM roads, and by private property and BLM roads on the west. Two interior roads totaling 7 miles dead end at Jug Spring Reservoir and Doolittle Cow Camp.

Physical Characteristics: The unit consists of the northern slope of the Trout Creek Mountains. Flat to rolling plateaus slope gently to the north and are incised by several major drainages and their tributaries (Whitehorse, Fifteenmile and Doolittle Creeks). Vegetation is predominately a sagebrush community with numerous meadows, pockets of aspen trees and mountain mahogany. Riparian vegetation is present along the streams.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: Approximately 11,700 acres of crested wheatgrass seeding in the northwest portion of the unit do not appear to be natural. The crested wheatgrass rows are obvious. Approximately 30 miles of fence, 10 reservoirs, 10 developed springs, 34 miles of ways and three brush controls totaling 1,200 acres are scattered throughout the unit and are all individually and collectively substantially unnoticeable. They are all either small, screened, blend in, are located in depressions, or are absorbed by the large size of the area.

Solitude: The natural portion of the unit offers an outstanding opportunity for solitude because of its relatively large size (48,000 acres), the distance from the perimeter to the core of the area (approximately 5 miles), the diverse relief with several deep winding canyons providing abundant topographic screening, and scattered pockets of dense vegetation (aspen and mountain mahogany) providing cover for camping.

Recreation: Outstanding opportunities for hiking, camping and deer hunting are present. Water is abundant (springs and streams), scenic vistas are numerous, wildlife is plentiful and the canyons are interesting and challanging.

Supplemental Values: The unit contains sagegrouse, beaver, antelope, deer, and fish; riparian habitat; and scenic vistas and deep canyons.

Proposed Decision: Designate 48,400 acres as a wilderness study area. Eliminate 11,700 acres which lack wilderness characteristics.

Rationale: The proposed wilderness study area offers outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined types of recreation. The area is generally natural and appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature. The area lacking wilderness characteristics includes an 11,700-acre seeding where the imprints of man's work are substantially noticeable.

Unit Number: 3-199

Unit Name: Willow Butte

Revision of Unit Boundaries: Inventory Unit 3-199 contains 18,250 acres. It is divided into four subunits by roads. Three of the subunits are less than 5,000 acres (4,490, 1,280 and 120 acres) and do not meet any of the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas. They are not described below.

Subunit Number: 3-199A

Description

Size: The unit contains 12,360 acres, which includes 240 acres of state exchange lands presently in the process of being acquired.

Location: The unit is located seven miles southwest of the Whitehorse Ranch.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded by a county road and private property on the west. It is bounded by BLM roads and private property on the remainder.

Physical Characteristics: The unit consists of the northern foothills of the Trout Creek Mountains. Parallel ridges and drainages merge into rolling hills dissected by small canyons and breaks. Willow Butte and a small mesas are situated at the base of the foothills. Beyond begins the sagebrush flats of the Whitehorse Desert. The vegetation is predominately sagebrush and grasses with riparian vegetation along Willow Creek.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: A portion of the area south of Willow Butte was seeded at one time, but the seeding is no longer noticeable. Ways within the area are substantially unnoticeable. Several fences and spring developments are located in the southwest corner. The springs are located in shallow draws and ravines and are mostly unnoticeable. The fenceline, while visible from the ridgetops or when one is directly upon it, is substantially unnoticeable throughout most of the unit.

In the northeast corner of the unit are two old buildings in a state of ruin. A third is found along the east boundary. Their effect is more pastoral than obtrusive. An old corral, of wood and wire, exists in the southeast corner, one and one-half mile from the Smith Spring Reservoir. The reservoir is well developed and heavily impacted, but is substantially unnoticeable from the rest of the unit because it rests on a small shelf above the lower drainages. The three water developments also substantially unnoticeable.

Solitude: The ravines and gullies provide topographic screening. However, as a result of the lack of any vegetative screening and the relatively small size of the unit there are no outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Recreation: Hiking, photography, hunting and fishing are some activities available in the unit. Wild horses, antelope and other wildlife are present. Limited challenging terrain is available for hiking. Good camping sites with water or shade are scarce. None of these opportunities are outstanding.

Supplemental Values: The most outstanding supplemental value of the area is zoological. Willow Creek contains a species of trout, the Alvord cutthroat, that occurs only in drainages flowing out of the Trout Creek Mountains. The fish occur in the portion of Willow Creek along the east boundary. Willow Creek and a willow grove also support beaver. The ecosystems along Willow Creek offer opportunities for educational and scientific study. The area contains antelope and wild horses. Sedimentary layers exposed in steep-sided ravines contain eroded deposits derived from the Trout Creeks during a time when the Alvord Desert was a great lake. Scenic vistas from the area include the Steens, the Trout Creeks, Flagstaff and Whitehorse Buttes, and the Alvord Desert. The east boundary is a 100-year-old route to the old homestead site, of which three foundations and walls remain. The west boundary is the old stage route from Boise, Idaho, to Chico, California.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The unit appears to be generally natural with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable. However, it does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

Prineville District

Unit Number: 5-14

Unit Name: Steelhead Falls

Introduction: This unit contains 3,240 acres of public land. It consists of two subunits separated by a 40-acre parcel of Forest Service land and a 40-acre parcel of private land. It is a long, narrow unit located along the Deschutes River, within and adjacent to the Forest Service-administered Crooked River National Grasslands. It is contiguous to the Forest Service's RARE II Area Number 6321. The President designated Area 6321 a further planning area in April 1979. The Forest Service conducted the planning earlier this year in conjunction with a land management plan prepared for the national grassland. A draft environmental statement on the land management plan was released in August 1979. The Forest Service's preferred alternative for the RARE II area is that it not be designated wilderness.

Subunit Number: 5-14A

Description

Size: 1,200 acres.

Location: Approximately 16 miles southeast of Madras.

Boundaries: Private and Forest Service land on the west and north; private land on the south and east.

Physical characteristics: The subunit is a mile wide at its widest point and 1/4 mile at its narrowest. The Deschutes River flows through a steep-walled canyon in the eastern portion of the subunit. The majority of the subunit lies southwest of the river and contains a series of high rolling

hills that rise over 400 feet above the canyon. Scattered clusters of juniper trees grow in the foothills. The understory is big sage, green rabbitbrush, bitterbrush, Idaho fescue, bluebunch wheatgrass, cheatgrass, and other plants. Layered sedimentary rock formations are exposed along the western side of the river. The northwestern portion of the subunit is a plateau containing clusters of juniper trees and an understory of big sage, green rabbitbrush, cheatgrass, and other plants. Vegetation along the river includes red alder, redosier dogwood, wax current, spira, wildrose, penstemon, and sedge.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria for a wilderness study area only when considered in conjunction with the contiguous RARE II area. It does not meet the minimum size criteria in and of itself.

Naturalness: Several ways in the southeastern and southern portions of the subunit are substantially noticeable. The rest of the subunit appears generally free of the works of man. An old mining mill has historical value and is not considered obtrusive.

Solitude: The subunit does not offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude. The confining topography of the canyon and the narrow shape and limited acreage of the area above the canyon would prevent users from avoiding the sights, sounds, and other evidence of other people in the subunit.

Recreation: When the contiguous RARE II lands are taken into consideration, the subunit offers an outstanding opportunity for trout fishing and hiking. In and of itself, the subunit does not offer an outstanding opportunity for these activities because of its limited size and narrow shape.

Proposed Decision: Designate 1,075 acres as a wilderness study area if the Forest Service recommends in its final environmental statement that the contiguous RARE II area be designated wilderness. Exclude 125 acres in the southeastern and southern portions because they contain substantially noticeable ways.

Rationale: The subunit is generally free of the works of man. It meets the minimum size criteria and offers outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation when considered in conjunction with the RARE II area. If, in its final environmental statement, the Forest Service does not recommend the area be designated wilderness, Subunit 5-14A should not be designated a WSA because it does not possess wilderness characteristics when considered solely on its own merits.

Subunit Number: 5-14B

Description

Size: 2,040 acres.

Location: Along the Deschutes River, approximately 12 miles southwest of Madras.

Boundaries: All boundaries are formed by non-BLM lands: withdrawn powersite lands, Forest Service land, and private land to the north; private land to the east; and private and Forest Service land to the south and west.

Physical Characteristics: The subunit contains approximately 6 1/2 miles of the Deschutes River canyon. The subunit is approximately 6 1/2 miles

long and ranges from 1/4 to one mile in width. Basalt and sedimentary rock formations of varying thickness, colors, and textures are exposed in the canyon. The basalt formations rise steeply from the canyon floor and form small plateaus in several locations. In the northern portion of the unit, steep hills rise over 700 feet above the river. Vegetation along the river includes red alder, redosier dogwood, wax current, spira, wildrose, penstemon, and sedge. Vegetation on the sidehills and small plateaus includes clusters of juniper trees, occasional pine trees, and an understory of big sage, bitterbrush, bluebunch wheatgrass, Idaho fescue, green rabbitbrush, buckwheat, wild rye, milkvetch, yarrow, and other plants.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: This subunit meets the minimum size criteria for a wilderness study area only when considered in conjunction with the contiguous RARE II area. It does not meet the minimum size criteria in and of itself.

Naturalness: The majority of the unit appears to be generally free of the works of man. The exception is approximately one acre in the northeastern corner, where a river gauging station is substantiallly noticeable. Several ways extend into the subunit, but they do not dominate the landscape. An old concrete retaining wall at Steelhead Falls blends into the surrounding environment and is not substantially noticeable.

Solitude: The unit does not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude. The confining topography in the canyon and the narrow shape and limited acreage of the area above the canyon would prevent users from avoiding the sights, sounds, and other evidence of other people in the subunit.

Recreation: When considered in conjunction with the contiguous RARE II area, the subunit offers outstanding opportunities for fishing and hiking in the canyon. Several species of trout inhabit the 6 1/2 miles of stream in the subunit. Because of its limited size and narrow shape, the subunit does not provide outstanding opportunities for primitive recreational activities when it is considered on its own merits.

Proposed Decision: Designate 2,039 acres as a wilderness study area if the Forest Service recommends in its final environmental statement that the contiguous RARE II area be designated wilderness. Exclude one acre in the northeast corner because it contains a substantially noticeable gauging station.

Rationale: Same as that for Subunit 5-14A.

Unit number: 5-57

Unit Name: Peter Well

Size: 10,966 acres of public land. Two 40-acre parcels of private land are located in the unit.

Location: Eight miles southwest of Hampton.

Boundaries: BLM road and private land to the west, BLM road to the south, BLM road to the east, Highway 20, private, and state holdings to the north.

Physical Characteristics: Low, rolling hills covered with big sage, little rabbitbrush, and other plants. Midportion contains shallow-basined canyons and small hills with occasional outcroppings of Columbia River

basalt. Dense stands of juniper trees dominate this area with an understory of big sage, little rabbitbrush, Idaho fescue, western needlegrass, and other plants. The unit slopes gradually to the north; the northern portion contains little topographic relief. Vegetation includes scattered clusters of juniper trees with Idaho fescue, big sage, little rabbitbrush, low sage and other plants.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: This unit meets the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas.

Naturalness: The unit contains two powerlines, two bulldozed cattle ponds, eleven miles of ways and five miles of fence. Powerlines cross the western and northeastern portions of the unit. The powerlines are substantially noticeable in a parcel west of the powerline on the west side and in a parcel east of the powerline in the northeast corner. The two parcels contain a total of 915 acres. A way and a bulldozed cattle pond are substantially noticeable in three acres on the west side of the unit. The remaining 10,048 acres are generally free of the works of man.

Solitude: Although there is some topographic relief and vegetative screening in the unit, the size, shape, limited topographic relief, and insufficient vegetative screening do not provide outstainding opportunities for a visitor to avoid the sights, sounds, and evidence of other people within the boundaries of the unit.

Recreation: This unit offers some opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation such as hiking, horseback riding, and hunting. However, these opportunities are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: Area may contain threatened and endangered plant species from the Fabaceae, Liliaceae, and Scrophulariaceae plant families.

Proposed Decicion: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The majority of this unit generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature. However, it does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

Unit Number: 5-58

Unit Name: Imperial

Description

Size: 6,157 acres.

Location: Six miles southwest of Hampton.

Boundaries: BLM roads on the west, south and part of the east. Private land also on the east, and Highway 20 on the north.

Physical Characteristics: Low rolling hills with little topographic relief. A dry river bed crosses the southern portion of the unit in an east-west direction. The unit contains a few isolated outcrops of reddish brown Columbia River basalt. The vegetation is dominated by big sagebrush, little rabbitbrush, Idaho fescue, and other plants. Several small clusters of juniper trees grow along a basalt escarpment that parallels the dry river.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: This unit meets the minimum size criteria for wilderness study area classification.

Naturalness: The unit contains three constructed reservoirs, four constructed cattle ponds, six and one-half miles of fence, and seven miles of ways that were constructed at one time. The reservoirs and ponds are substantially noticeable. The rest of the unit appears to be generally free of the works of man.

Solitude: The unit does not provide an outstanding opportunity for solitude because of the lack of topographic relief and vegetative screening and the unit's confining shape and size.

Recreation: This unit offers some opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation such as hiking, horseback riding, and hunting. However, the opportunities are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: Area may contain threatened and endangered plant species from the Fabaceae, Liliaceae, and Scrophulariaceae plant families.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wildereness review.

Rationale: The majority of the unit generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature. However, the unit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

APPENDIX A

THE WILDERNESS REVIEW PROCESS

Reason for Wilderness Review

When Congress passed the Federal Land Policy and Management Act in 1976, it required the Secretary of the Interior to review roadless areas and islands administered by the Bureau of Land Management and to identify those which have wilderness characteristics. The Secretary is to report to the President his recommendations regarding the suitability of the areas and islands for preservation as wilderness. The President, in turn, is to submit his recommendations to Congress.

ONLY CONGRESS CAN ESTABLISH A WILDERNESS AREA.

The Three Phases of the Review Process

The wilderness review process has three phases: inventory, study and submission of a report to Congress.

1. Inventory. First, the public lands will be inventoried to identify areas that meet Congress' definition of wilderness. Such areas will be designated wilderness study areas (WSAs).

WE ARE NOW MIDWAY THROUGH THIS PHASE. IT WILL BE COMPLETED IN LATE 1980.

BLM published a wilderness inventory handbook in September 1978. It contains policies, procedures, and guidelines on how the inventory will be carried out. The handbook may be obtained from any BLM office.

The inventory phase includes two steps.

a. Initial Inventory. The purpose of this step was to identify lands which clearly do not have wilderness characteristics and to eliminate them from further wilderness review.

The State Director's proposed decision on the initial inventory in Oregon and Washington was announced in April, 1979. A 90-day public comment period followed.

The final decision on the initial inventory was announced in August, 1979. Approximately 5.7 million acres in Oregon and over 296,000 acres in Washington were eliminated from further wilderness review.

b. Intensive Inventory. All inventory units not eliminated from wilderness review in the initial inventory require intensive inventory, including field investigations of the areas. The purpose of this step is to determine which areas should be eliminated from further review and which should be designated as wilderness study areas.

The intensive inventory of lands in Oregon and Washington is being carried out in two stages. The first stage, which is the subject of this report, considers only 30 inventory units in southeastern Oregon.

THIS REPORT ANNOUNCES THE PROPOSED DECISION ON THE INTENSIVE INVENTORY OF 30 SELECTED INVENTORY UNITS IN OREGON.

A period for public review of and comment on this proposed decision will close on January 4, 1980. The final decision on the intensive inventory of the selected units will be announced in the spring of 1980.

The second stage will consider all of the other units in Oregon and Washington which were designated for intensive inventory in the August 1979 report. A proposed decision will be announced in the spring of 1980. A 90-day public comment period will follow, with the final decision scheduled for late summer 1980.

2. Study. The BLM land-use planning system will be used to analyze all values, resources, and uses within the WSAs. The benefits of designating the areas as wilderness will be compared with the benefits of using the land for other purposes. The public will be asked to participate in the studies. The results of the studies will determine whether the areas are recommended as suitable or nonsuitable for designation as wilderness.

3. Reporting. When a study is completed, recommendations as to whether the WSAs are suitable or nonsuitable for designation as wilderness will be submitted to Congress.

Wilderness Characteristics

Congress directed us to use the wilderness definition found in Section 2(c) of the 1964 Wilderness Act to determine which roadless areas and islands have wilderness characteristics. On the basis of that definition, an area or island must have the following characteristics to qualify as a wilderness study area:

1. Contain 5,000 or more acres of contiguous public land or be of sufficient size to make practicable its preservation, use, and management as wilderness in an unimpaired condition.

2. Be an area where the imprint of man's work is substantially unnoticeable.

3. Offer either:

a. An outstanding opportunity for solitude, or
b. An outstanding opportunity for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

A wilderness area may also contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value. These values enhance the wilderness potential of an area, but they are not necessary features of a wilderness study area.

Roadless Areas

For purposes of BLM's wilderness review, the definition of "roadless" is taken directly from the legislative history of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (House Report 94-1163, May 15, 1976, page 17):

> The word 'roadless' refers to the absence of roads which have been improved and maintained by mechanical means to insure relatively regular and continuous use. A way maintained solely by the passage of vehicles does not constitute a road.

Words and phrases in the definition are further defined in BLM's inventory handbook:

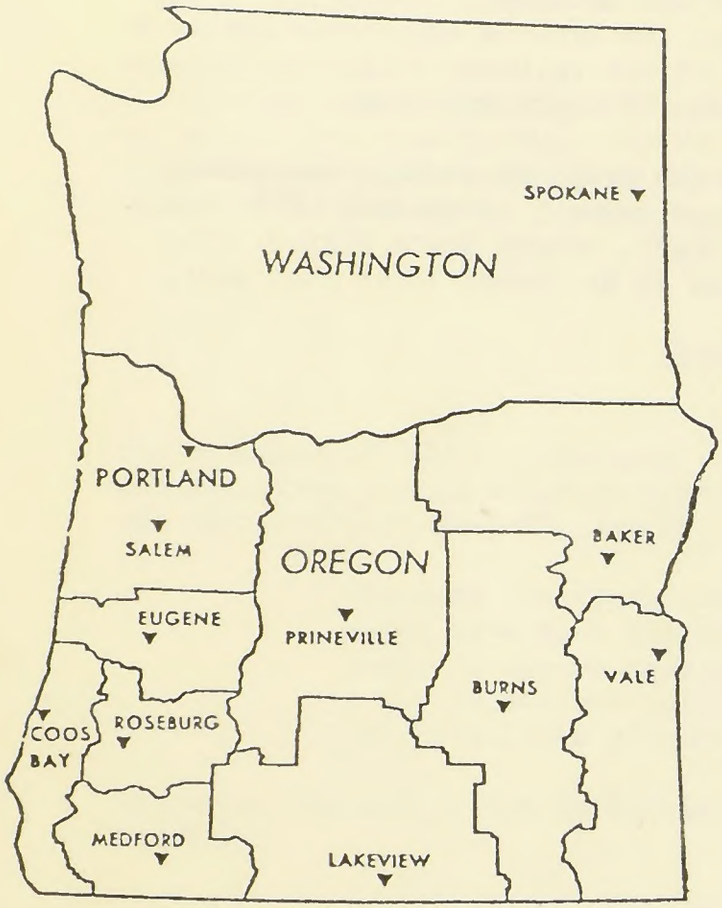
> "Improved and maintained" -- Actions taken physically by man to keep the road open to vehicular traffic. "Improved" does not necessarily mean formal construction. "Maintained" does not necessarily mean annual maintenance.
>
> "Mechanical means" -- Use of hand or power machinery or tools.
>
> "Relatively regular and continuous use" -- Vehicular use which has occurred and will continue to occur on a relatively regular basis. Examples are: access roads for equipment to maintain a stock water tank or other established water sources; access roads to maintain recreation sites or facilities; or access roads to mining claims.

In Section 603(c) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, Congress requires BLM to manage public lands in a manner which does not impair their suitability for preservation as wilderness. Lands are released from this interim management requirement when it is determined through the initial or intensive inventories that they do not meet the wilderness criteria. Areas with wilderness characteristics remain under the interim management policy until Congress either makes the areas part of the National Wilderness Management System or rejects wilderness designation by legislative action.

A draft of BLM's interim management policy and proposed surface management regulations were issued for public review and comment in January 1979. You may abtain a copy from the Public Affairs Staff, Oregon State Office. The final interim management policy is scheduled to be issued later this year.

APPENDIX B

BLM OFFICES IN OREGON & WASHINGTON



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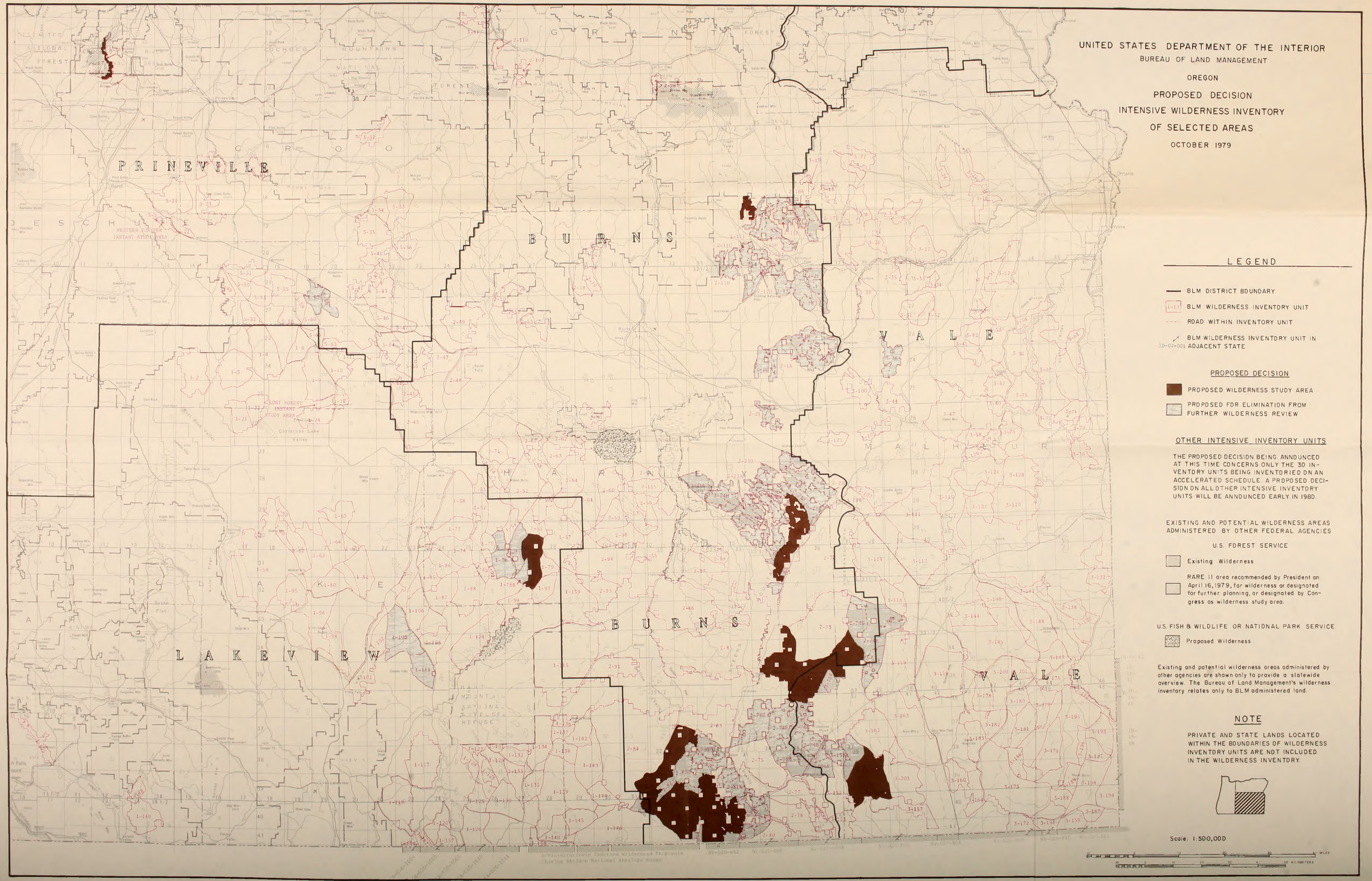
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
OREGON
PROPOSED DECISION
INTENSIVE WILDERNESS INVENTORY
OF SELECTED AREAS
OCTOBER 1979
LEGEND
BLM DISTRICT BOUNDARY
BLM WILDERNESS INVENTORY UNIT
ROAD WITHIN INVENTORY UNIT
BLM WILDERNESS INVENTORY UNIT IN ADJACENT STATE
PROPOSED DECISION
PROPOSED WILDERNESS STUDY AREA
PROPOSED FOR ELIMINATION FROM FURTHER WILDERNESS REVIEW
OTHER INTENSIVE INVENTORY UNITS
THE PROPOSED DECISION BEING ANNOUNCED AT THIS TIME CONCERNS ONLY THE 30 INVENTORY UNITS BEING INVENTORIED ON AN ACCELERATED SCHEDULE. A PROPOSED DECISION ON ALL OTHER INTENSIVE INVENTORY UNITS WILL BE ANNOUNCED EARLY IN 1980.
EXISTING AND POTENTIAL WILDERNESS AREAS ADMINISTERED BY OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES
U.S. FOREST SERVICE
Existing Wilderness
RARE II area recommended by President on April 16, 1979, for wilderness or designated for further planning, or designated by Congress as wilderness study area.
U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE OR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Proposed Wilderness
Existing and potential wilderness areas administered by other agencies are shown only to provide a statewide overview. The Bureau of Land Management's wilderness inventory relates only to BLM administered land.
NOTE
PRIVATE AND STATE LANDS LOCATED WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF WILDERNESS INVENTORY UNITS ARE NOT INCLUDED IN THE WILDERNESS INVENTORY.
Scale: 1:500,000
PRINEVILLE
BURNS
VALE
LAKEVIEW
BURNS
VALE
WESTERN JUNIPER INSTANT STUDY AREA
LOST FOREST INSTANT STUDY AREA
Administratively Endorsed Wilderness Proposals
Charles Sheldon National Antelope Range